A FISHERMAN PUBLICATION

The Long Island FISHERMAN

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The Largest Weekly Sportfishing Magazine in the United States!

February 18th, 1982 ★ Volume 17, Number [illegible] ★ 17th Year of Publishing ★ SEVENTY-FIVE CENTS

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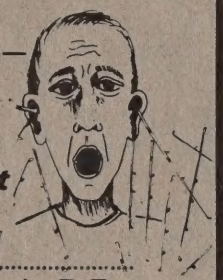

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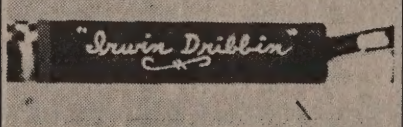

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EDITORIAL

REVIEW OF FISHING ADVISORY BOARD ACTIVITIES

It occurred to us, after a recent meeting of the Long Island State Parks and Recreation Commission and the Fishing Advisory Board (Jan. 28, 1982), that it has indeed been some time since we have discussed the goings on at these meetings. It is inevitable that things must change, and although progress is often slow, we do resolve issues and address ourselves to improving the quality of fishing at the State Parks.

There is another factor that prompts me to write this editorial, and it is not a pleasant factor. This summer, much was printed in organization newsletters, in letters between concerned individuals, as well as beach talk that misinformed and misled the reader or listener to reach incorrect conclusions. We're concerned about such misleading and irresponsible information because it divides beach fishermen and undermines efforts to improve the quality of fishing at the State Parks. Our concern and the events of recent months seemed to construct an opportune time to review what has happened, why it has happened, and where we are going.

Let's set the record straight about the how and why the Fishing Advisory Board was established. The FAB was established in 1978 when Scott Simons, Mr. John Sheridan, and myself sat down one afternoon and looked at each other's needs and examined the possible ways in which we could help each other. Now, one can choose to romanticize that people win demands by threats and the innate power of the people that resides within every pore of government, but that isn't the case. The reality is that government agencies and politicians listen to what you have to say because they want you to listen to what they have to say. In short: one hand washes the other! That phrase has picked up many bad connotations over the years, but it can still be a legitimate way to do business as long as both parties are willing to make serious contributions and try not to take advantage of the other.

Why did LIF want the FAB? The answer to that question should be obvious. All beach fishermen have observed that access on Long Island to the waterfront has been shrinking. The loss is a consequence of development by the private sector, the closure of beaches by townships, the deterioration of some communities, and certain Federal projects. We wanted that trend turned around. We also noticed, as did many of you, that the safety of the beaches within state parks had deteriorated and that vandalism was spreading from State Park buildings to the vehicles of fishermen. However, there was more. We had our eye on several other areas where the State Parks were involved, although not within the arena of surf fishing. The State Parks, Recreation, and Historical Commission could help us with these projects, and they might if we were able to show them the facts, prove that we were concerned about their problems, and were willing to help solve those problems. On the other side, the L.I.S.P.R.C. watched as vandalism went out of control, violent crimes increased steadily within the parks, and State budget allocations steadily dwindled. In addition, John Sheridan, the recently arrived new General Manager, did not share the views of some of his predecessors. He wanted to open communication with those who used the parks and the organizations that represented these people. He wanted to draw them into the process instead of turning the back of the Commission on them.

So it was that we agreed to form the Board. We also agreed on how the Board would function. It would be advisory and the L.I.S.P.R.C. agreed to bring all pertinent problems and information before the Board for their information, suggestions, and ideas. The L.I.S.P.R.C. also agreed not to allow tangent groups to intervene in the function of the Board as pseudo-official representatives of the surf fishing community. The following organizations would send representatives: The Long Island Fisherman, because it is read by over 100,000 fishermen from all different fishing disciplines on Long Island; the Long Island Beach Buggy Association, because it represents a large group of fishermen/beach buggy users; the United Mobile Sportsfishermen, for much the same reason; and the New York Sportfishing Council. The members selected were myself (LIF), Mike Parker (LIBBA), George Hulse (UMS), and John Fritz (NYSC). Shortly after the FAB began its operation, we added at at-large member (Don Palmer) to represent the legion of unaffiliated fishermen and about a year later, we

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Captain Bob Rocchetta and Freddie Wheeler share the burden of Bob's all-tackle record 76 lb. striper taken last summer at Montauk. The East Setauket angler relives the experience in his own words on page 18.

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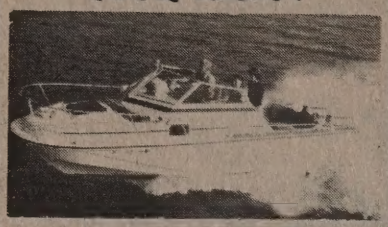

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added John (Whitey) Pawelski from the Montauk Surfcasters Association. Then the New York Sportfishing Council dissolved, but the Board asked John Fritz to continue because of his many years of experience on the beach, his intimate knowledge of the problems of all the parks from Jones Beach to Montauk, the fact that he is both a walker and a buggy user, and because his work on the Council had been most helpful to the Board and the Commission. George Hulse was forced to relinquish his position and was replaced by Fred Lotz and Bill Young now alternates with Mike Parker.

The responsibility of each member was clear to the Board and the L.I.S.P.R.C. from the start, but apparently this fact escaped some folks on the outside in spite of the fact that we outlined responsibilities right here several times. Each representative has the responsibility to be credible and reasonable and to air the views of the fishermen he represents. Thus, each representative must reflect what his constituency requests and temper these wants with reason and understanding, as well as sensitivity to the situation. Each representative then is beholden only to the groups he represents and no other. This was one of the original principles in establishing and adding to the representation and it was hoped that via this vehicle, no area would be slighted or receive more than its share of concern. We thought it equitable at the time, and we still do. We are following the model of state legislatures and those of the Federal Government itself. It has worked there for more than 200 years and I suspect it works for us.

We must address the reality of the modern day world when we attempt to understand how such a board can function. Advisory boards are funny animals. If such a board works it must be, de facto, more than advisory. Yet, the rules under which the board operates has previously been defined as advisory. If such a board remains purely advisory, it will have little meaning to anyone and become extinct in short order. On the other hand, the board cannot make policy. Somewhere in the middle comes the reality of an advisory capacity that is respected enough so that the advice helps in the construction of policy. Furthermore, these are hard times. Many young people seem to have lost all respect for property and personal dignity. The L.I.S.P.R.C. budget has been cut, reflecting both Federal cuts and a state budget where other social concerns outweigh recreation in the minds of some politicians, especially since other social programs help get them re-elected. It has always surprised us why more people on Long Island don't sit down and write letters to their Assemblymen and Senators demanding more money for Parks and Recreation instead of throwing it into non-productive enterprises. You pay the taxes and if you scream loud enough you'll get more money. However, you don't write those letters, and turn instead to other letters directed sometimes at members of the advisory board who are beating their brains out trying to get you more access against the obstacle of a constantly shrinking L.I.S.P.R.C. budget. It would accomplish much more if those letters were turned on to legislators.

How can the FAB be effective against these odds? There are many things that the Board can accomplish and at the end of this editorial is a review of some of these; but perhaps it is more important to understand the approach rather than the outcomes. There first must a spirit of compromise and not belligerence. Second, members of the FAB must recognize that they will have to surrender some things in order to gain others that have more import. If the process is not give and take, then there will be no process. Third, FAB members must have credibility and not attempt to back an idea that is without real merit or support and to understand to the best of our ability the problems of the L.I.S.P.R.C. Fourth, we must try to enlighten the L.I.S.P.R.C. on subjects for which they possess no expertise so that they can understand our needs. Of course, all of these items apply to the L.I.S.P.R.C. in kind and in an inverse way.

There is one more item. The Long Island Fisherman and the Fishing Advisory Board will not shy from taking action to support the maintenance of the quality of fishing on Long Island. However, one cannot jump to take political or social action on every little item that comes along. As one famous hunter pointed out, you don't want to waste an elephant shell on a mouse! Most problems require only mouse-sized shells and thus one saves the elephant shell for the elephant. However, rest assured that should that elephant come along there will be no hesitation to use it and the chances are that the shell is big enough and fresh enough that it will work!

Thus, function on this board is a tricky business. Sure, it looks easy from the outside, but it isn't easy. It takes a lot of time, care, and patience, among other things. Careful execution of one's responsibility can lead to a better world. We've summarized some of the things that the FAB has been working on since 1978 for your information.

1. Night barricades at park entrances—This simple action was suggested by the Board and has reduced vandalism, has not reduced access for fishermen, has increased security for night surf fishing, but has cost the L.I.S.P.R.C. money. They have been willing to spend this money because the program has proved its value.

2. Requested and received access in the fall during daylight at Robert Moses Field 4. There have been no problems for the L.I.S.P.R.C. and many fishermen have enjoyed a good day's fishing there.

3. Camp Hero at Montauk which at one point appeared would go over to

East Hampton control, now seems to be property that will be enjoyed for recreation by many people for many years to come. The FAB had a principal role in this outcome.

4. Repair of road to Scott's Hole at Montauk.

5. Repair of roads at Caumsett each spring and the installation of a full-time police officer.

6. Resolution of the surfing problem at Jones Beach West End II. The compromise was worked out by an ad hoc committee consisting of representation from the FAB, the L.I.S.P.R.C., and the Eastern Surfing Association. The agreement guarantees our use of the beach east of the West End Jetty between roughly Labor Day and Thanksgiving while providing legal access to surfers within the State Parks.

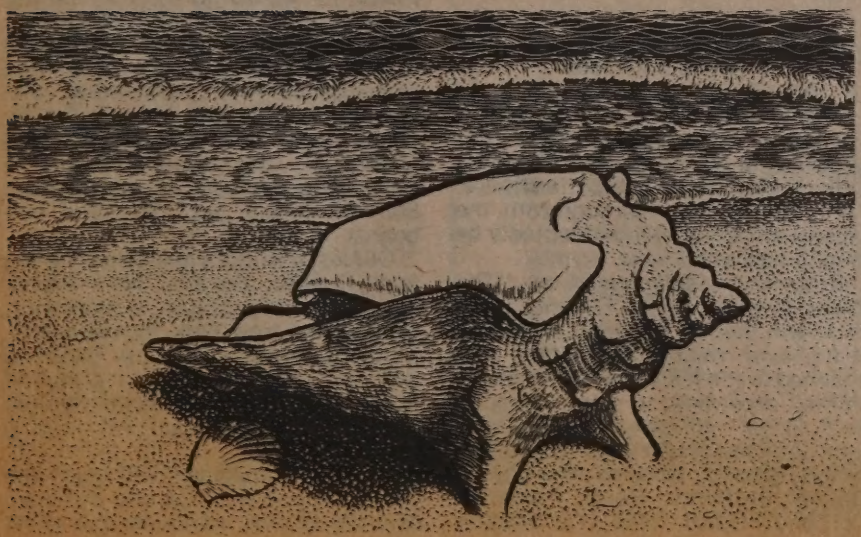
7. Caumsett Pass. Some view this outcome as disappointing, but to be fair, it is the most even-handed means of dealing with a problem wherein there exists a greater demand than there is access. The L.I.S.P.R.C. made this suggestion with a positive history of six other lotteries to back up its request and the FAB, although noting the objections of many fishermen, also recognized it to be the fairest way to handle this problem.

8. Democraft Point Regulations. This was perhaps the most bitter pill. The L.I.S.P.R.C. regulations were not greeted with enthusiasm by the FAB, yet the data was clear. There were problems at Democrat. Many people using the beach did not legally belong there. The L.I.S.P.R.C. presented its plan and the reasons why it wished to do so. We presented our ideas and on how to avoid the L.I.S.P.R.C. plan elements. Most of our ideas were not practical as the L.I.S.P.R.C. produced information on enforcement and budget. However, the plan was modified in a number of ways that eliminated some of the more stringent regulations or changed them so they were less severe. The result: some reduced on-off access to buggies, a reduced threat to dune ecology because most of the illegal users (abusers) were eliminated, increased family safety, improved patrols, and more peaceful family fishing. The L.I.S.P.R.C. also agreed to review this situation in the future.

There are also two other items that deal with fishing, but do not have a direct significance to the FAB and yet the education of the L.I.S.P.R.C. about fishing and its unique problems as well as expressing a spirit of helpful guidance has improved the chances for success in other other areas. One is the construction on a boat launching ramp at Kings Park (long-promised) and the passage of the Parks Bill in Albany that would prohibit commercial fishing in proximity to state park lands.

It's easy for groups and individuals to criticize. It doesn't take knowledge, experience, expertise, or maturity to criticize. The trick is to criticize fairly and with knowledge and then offer sound alternatives that provide a way out of the problem that all can accept. This takes time, patience, and means one has to do a lot of homework before one opens the mouth. It can be very self-indulgent to shoot from the hip and as such, it somehow satisfies our emotional needs; but shooting from the hip rarely hits the target and so it is in matters of community and political concern. Fishermen need enlightened support in order to get the tough jobs of the future done, or to put it another way—we need sharpshooters who shoot from the shoulder instead of from the hip.

William A. Muller



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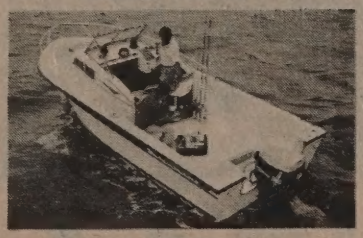

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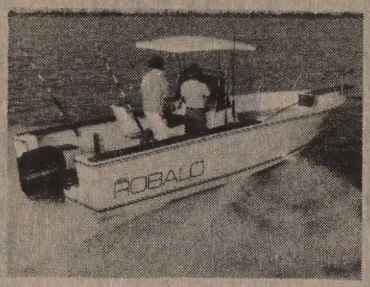

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The Atlantis Anglers will hold the first meeting of the year on Tuesday, February 23, 1982 at the Salty Bay Yacht Club, 180 Westside Avenue, Freeport, N.Y. at 8PM. Prospective members are welcome.

Anyone wishing to become a member, please contact Walter Lustberg, Membership Chairman, 223-2443; or Al Zaretsky, Publicity Chairman, 796-3982, evenings after 7PM.

FISHING TACKLE LEADS PARADE AT 1982 WORLD FISHING EXPO

When the 5th Annual World Fishing & Outdoor Exposition gets underway at the Rockland Community College Field House in Suffern, New York, February 24th through 28th, the biggest attraction will undoubtedly be fishing tackle.

Becoming widely known as "The Super Bowl of Sport Fishing," the Expo will feature a lineup of fishing tackle and related equipment unequalled in the history of sportsmen's shows, according to show director Paul Fuller. All the internationally famous manufacturers will be there, including such names as Abu-Garcia, Daiwa, Shimano, Penn, Fenwick, Cortland, Quick, Scientific Angler, Childre, Shakespeare, Berkley, Heddon, Eagle Claw, Stren, Browning-Mitchell and others too numerous to list. There are over 90 of them!

But that's just part of the huge five-day show. With nearly 300 exhibitors, there are countless additional displays by smaller firms, custom rod builders, area retailers, etc. Avid fishermen will find the intricate work of famous custom rod builders such as Vince Cummings, Don Phillip and Harry Wilson; dozens of terminal tackle manufacturers will feature the latest in freshwater and saltwater plugs, spinner baits, soft baits, crank baits and flies. Add the exhibits of marine electronics, boats, motors, fishing lodges and guides, and the result is truly a fisherman's dream show.

No matter if your interest is mainly surf fishing Long Island, party boat fishing off the Jersey shore, trout fishing in the Catskills, or leans to more exotic things like rainbow fishing the Alaskan Katmai region or Icelandic Atlantic Salmon fishing—or just everyday bass and pickerel in your own back yard—there's information on it all at "The Big Show," the 5th Annual World Fishng & Outdoor Exposition.

A trademark of this show is the extensive program of fishing clinics featuring national and local experts in every phase of the angler's art. Authorities like Ernest Schwiebert, Hank Parker, Al Ristori, Steve Rajeff and others will be conducting informative seminars on everything from fresh to salt water, trout, bass, blues, stripers, big game fishing and all the secrets of successful casting. Plus Bob Rochetta, the current holder of the all-tackle world's record for striped bass, will be at the Abu-Garcia booth on Saturday and Sunday with his record breaking fish. Attendance at all clinics is included in the low price of admission to the whole show: just $4 for adults and $1.50 for children under 12. There are even two casting pools on the main floor where you can try out all the latest rods and reels.

Practically every fishing technique, piece of equipment and fishing experience possible is represented.

Impressive displays of marine exhibits include Lima & Sons from Upper Saddle River, New Jersey, who will be showing the all-new Grady-White boats, plus McKee Craft and Duranautic, and Ruston Marine of Clifton, New Jersey, who will feature Starcraft boats and Mercury outboards.

Guides, outfitters and lodge-owners from Quebec, Ontario, New Brunswick, Labrador, Maine, Connecticut, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Montana, Alaska and the Behamas will be on hand with fascinating presentations, and all the information you'll need to plan your next hunting or fishing trip.

Hunting enthusiasts will enjoy the vast variety of exhibits and seminars catering to their interests: the latest

lines from several major manufacturers, muzzle-loading equipment, bird dog demonstrations with New Jersey's Herb Hollowell, movies on wild turkey, sheep and grizzly hunting, even an authentic trapper's cabin constructed by the New York State Trapper's Association. Plus archery equipment manufacturers and an indoor archery range!

A highlight of this year's World Fishing & Outdoor Exposition is the "First Wild Turkey Weekend," co-sponsored by the Exposition and the New Jersey Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation. Friday night's activities feature an extensive, exciting seminar on wild turkey hunting and calling, presented by National Calling Champion Ben Rodgers Lee. And, on Saturdat at 2PM, there's the first Eastern Open Turkey Calling Competition. The contest features three divisions—Open, Friction and Junior—with trophies and cash awards in all divisions. As with all clinics and seminars presented at the 1982 World Fishing & Outdoor Exposition, "Wild Turkey Weekend" events are included in the price of admission.

The Fifth Annual World Fishing & Outdoor Exposition is easy to get to: if you live in New Jersey, just take the Garden State Parkway up to the New York Thruway (I-87) and go one exit north (Exit 14B-Airmont Road) and follow signs to the Rockland Community College Field House. From Long Island and the East, take the Tappan Zee Bridge and I-87 to Exit 14B. From the North or West, simply take I-87 to Exit 14B. All parking is free.

Show hours on Wednesday and Thursday are 4PM-10PM, on Friday the Expo is open from 2PM-10PM, and on Saturday from 10AM to 11PM. On Sunday, from 11AM-7PM.

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SURF SIDE III TUNA CLUB ANNOUNCES NEW SHARK TOURNAMENT

While most people are shoveling snow, the Surf Side III Tuna Club is on the go, still holding two meetings a month, and getting prepared for what is to be our very best season of fishing and good times. Among the many tournaments we have, we also are looking forward to our Senior Citizen's Day, Family Day, Club Picnic, Ladies' Day and Children's Day.

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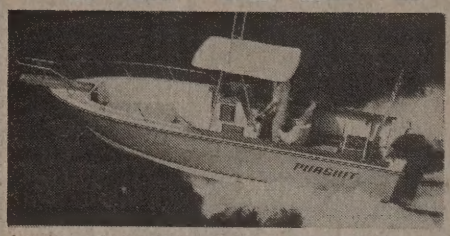

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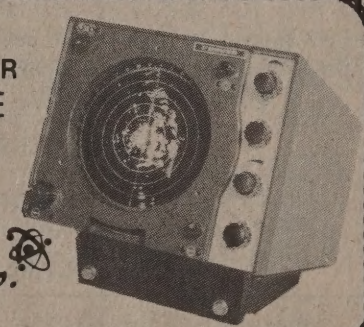

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proud to announce that we are going to have our first annual Shark Tournament. It is to be held on July 17 (rain date July 18). It will start and end at the Lindenhurst Town Dock. The fee is $100 per boat and everyone is welcome. For those Captains who sign in before May 1, they will be eligible to enter a raffle, at no extra charge, for a 8/0 International, which will be raffled at the Captain's Meeting on July 16. Cash prizes totaling $2500 will be awarded to the winners. First place - $1500; 2nd place - $750, and 3rd place - $250. Anyone interested please call Richie Ferri at 957-5771 or Fred Walters at 842-8107.

FREE BOATING COURSE BY CITY ISL. POWER & SAIL

Boaters are invited by the City Island Power Squadron to attend a public boating instruction course to be conducted at the City Island Community Centre, 190 Fordham St., City Island, Bronx, N.Y., starting Feb. 22, 1982. Classes will be held on Mondays at 8PM. Some of the subjects are safety operation of boats and emergency procedures. Courses are taught by experienced instructors and last 14 weeks.

The public boating course is free; and a small charge of $6 is charged for materials and testing.

For additional information, call Joe Burck, days, (212) 885-1559; evenings Bill Purcell, (212) 863-5772.

JOHN NAHORNEY REMEMBERED

Great South Bay Anglers' Club members were saddened to learn last week of the passing of one of the club's more colorful and active members. The death of John Nahorney on Sunday, February 7th, left a void in the hearts of many of us.

John will be sorely missed, especially by those who were fortunate enough to have shared a boat or beach buggy with him. In his own humble way, he always managed to be one of the key ingredients to a memorable fishing trip. On club outings to Nantucket, Cape Cod and Quincy, John's culinary talents made him unofficial head cook and he was more generous than most with his time and effort towards all club functions.

Despite his sometimes sarcastic humor, his laughter was shared by all. It is probably this aspect of the man that will remain most vivid in the minds of fellow anglers and friends when remembering this lovable, Long Island "character."

LEARN BOATING SKILLS AND SEAMANSHIP FREE!

A 10-week course will be given by U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 13-3. The course includes Rules of the Road, Charts and Compass, Weather, Radiotelephone, Marlinspike, Seamanship, Boat Handling and Marine Engines.

In Island Park, registration on Tuesday and Wednesday, February

23rd & 24, 6:30PM-8PM, Lincoln Oren Jr. High School. Classes start on Monday, March 1, 1982.

In Long Beach: registration Tuesday and Wednesday, March 9 and 10, 7PM-9PM, Long Beach Jr. High School in Lido. Classes start on Tuesday, March 16, 1982.

Saturday morning classes for the same course will be held at the Long Beach Public Library at 111 West Park Avenue, with registration on February 27 and March 6, 10AM to Noon. First class on Saturday, March 6 at 10AM.

There is no charge for the course. For further information, call Seymour Freeman, (516) 432-6479.

BERKLEY DOUBLE CROSSES SNAP FAILURE WITH CROSS-LOK SNAPS

Berkley dramatically reduced the possibility of snap failure with the introduction of a new snap design that reduces weight yet increases strength while making lure and rig changing a whole lot easier. Berkley's Cross-Lok snap, size for size, is the strongest snap available.

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For additional information write: Berkley and Co., Inc., Trilene Drive, Spirit Lake, Iowa 51360.

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Team up the new Sterling 7010's hi-speed 5.1:1 gear ratio with ball bearing smoothness and a pop-off spool that holds 185 yds. of 8# test mono, and you'll have a 10 oz. fishing partner that'll never let you down during the long run.

The new Zebco 7010 also features a right/left inter changeable handle, silent, selective anti-reverse and the test-proven Straight-Line drag.

For additional information about the new Zebco Sterling 7010, as well as the entire 1982 Zebco tackle lineup, contact Chuck Roberts, Zebco Division Brunswick Corporation, P.O. Box 270, Tulsa, Okla. 74101.

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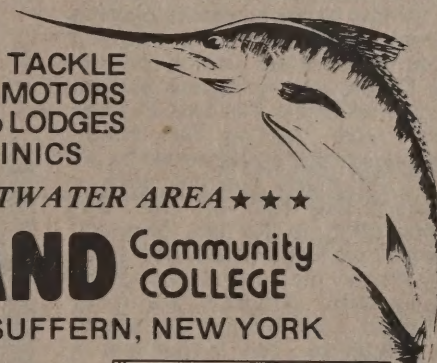

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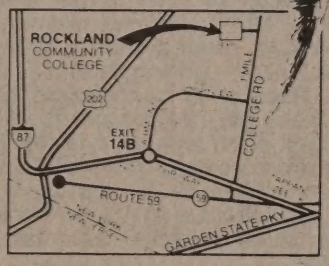

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HOW TO SPECIAL:

SMALL GAFF WITH A BIG BITE!

by Barbara Sands

Up and in! A big, gyrating weakfish landed in the boat, and the little gaff had done it again. Weakfish, monster blues, striped bass, bonito, doormat fluke, king mackerel—all have fallen prey to the deadly accuracy of the little gaff.

Easy to make, and easier to use, the need for this handy accessory became apparent while fishing for various species of mackerel in the Florida Keys. During fast and furious fishing, at a pace so hectic that two or three anglers were fighting fish simultaneously, we obviously needed a gaff that could make contact with a barracuda-like fish on the first attempt, bring up the fish, release it easily into the fishwell, and be passed safely around the cockpit during the frenzied blitz. Kingfish are long, thin-bodied fish, ranging in weight from 5 to 35 lbs., two to four feet in length. They are strong swimmers, and erratic, making them a difficult target for any regular gaff with a large hook. Because of our success ratio with these fish, we brought the little gaff back north with us, and found it as equally successful and useful on all fish up to 35 or 40 lbs. Obviously an additional plus, using a small hook to gaff a fish leaves more meat intact for the table.

The gaff should always be used in a straight up-and-down position, particularly on larger fish to prevent too much strain on the slender fiberglass shaft. It is easier to use the gaff instead of a net on smaller fish, as terminal tackle always seems to get tangled in the net.

All you need to make this marvelous little gaff are the following:

4' solid fiberglass blank, 1/2'' at the base; tapered to 3/8'' at the tip (any smaller diameter will have a tendency to break on a large, lively fish)
9/0 stainless steel hook
tubular foam rubber grip, 10'' long
Stainless steel wire
2-part epoxy glue
2-part epoxy paint
Fiberglass or Marine-Tex
Sandpaper
Grindstone or file
Wirecutter

This light, easily maneuverable gaff can be handled very efficiently by a lone angler.

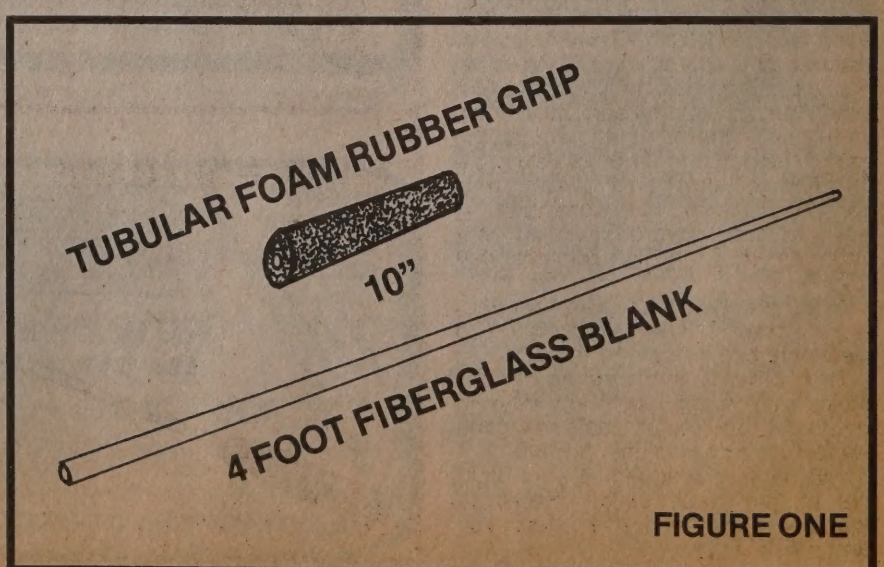


FIGURE ONE

Varnish (good grade)

The first step is to remove the barb on the hook with a grindstone or file. Next, slide on the grip. Try to get a grip that will fit as tightly possible. Fishing rod grips are sold in any tackle store. The grip can be put on the blank from the bottom or the top. If you are putting it on from the bottom, apply 2-part epoxy glue lightly to the bottom five inches of the blank, and then slide on the grip from the bottom. As the grip slides on, the glue will be distributed evenly. If you are sliding on the grip from the top (sometimes this makes a tighter fit), slide on the handle down to the last ten inches from the bottom of the blank, and epoxy the first five inches lightly. Then slide the grip into place. Make sure the grip is flush with the bottom of the blank. Let it dry.

Now you are ready to position the hook to the blank. At least two inches of the shank should be attached to the blank, positioning the point of the hook above the tip of the blank. If your hook has a very large eye, part of it can be cut off with a wirecutter. But be careful to leave a little of the eye on the hook. This part of the eye will be used to give added strength in securing the hook to the blank.

Caution: Do not drill holes in the tip of the blank, as it will weaken the fiberglass. Now epoxy the hook to the blank. After the epoxy glue hardens, you are ready to wind the stainless steel wire around the hook and the blank. Start the wire about 1'' before the eye of the hook, and run it almost to the tip of the blank. At this point, start winding as tightly as possible, going back over the wire, and the shank of the hook, in the direction of the eye. When you get to the eye, use the two ends to form a haywire twist, firmly anchoring the wire winding. Then cut off any excess, laying the twist flat against the blank.

Now cover the tip of the blank, the shank of the hook, and your wire winding, with Marine-Tex or 2-part fiberglass, whichever is more readily available. Sometimes Marine-Tex is easier to get and can be purchased in smaller quantities. Build up your fiberglass or Marine-Tex in layers, making sure all the wire is covered. Try to put it on as evenly as possible. When it is dry, sand it and taper it to a uniform thickness. At this stage, the end of the gaff should be built up to a thickness of about 5/8''. After it is sanded, check to make sure that the wire is still covered. It is very important that the wire remains well covered.

After the gaff has been sanded, apply a coat of 2-part epoxy paint to the whole blank down to the grip.

Then a decorative winding of your choice can be applied to any desired length. A couple of coats of good grade varnish completes the job.

You have now added to your gear one of the most useful pieces of equipment that will ever help you land a fish.

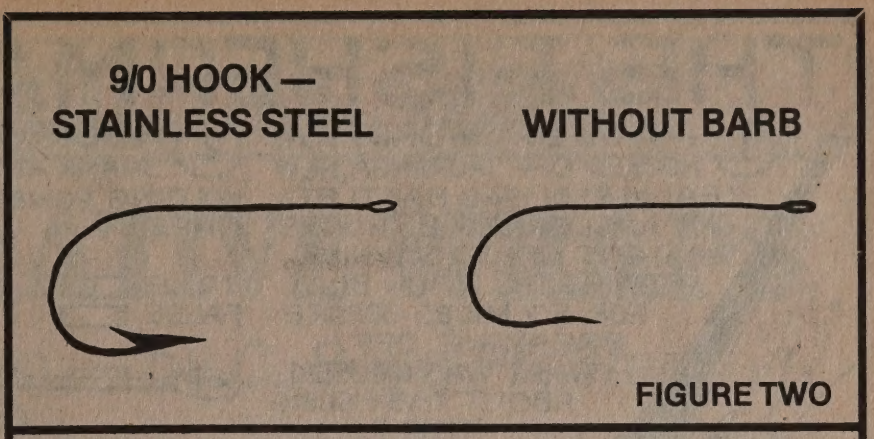


FIGURE TWO

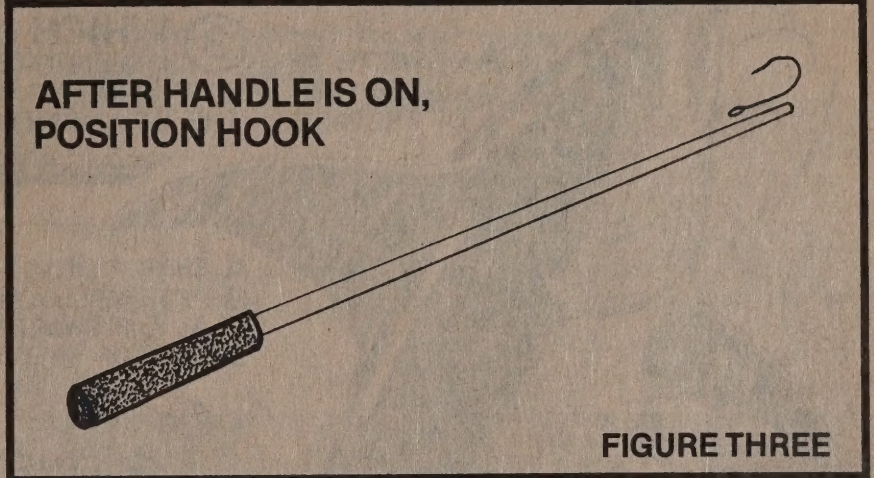


FIGURE THREE

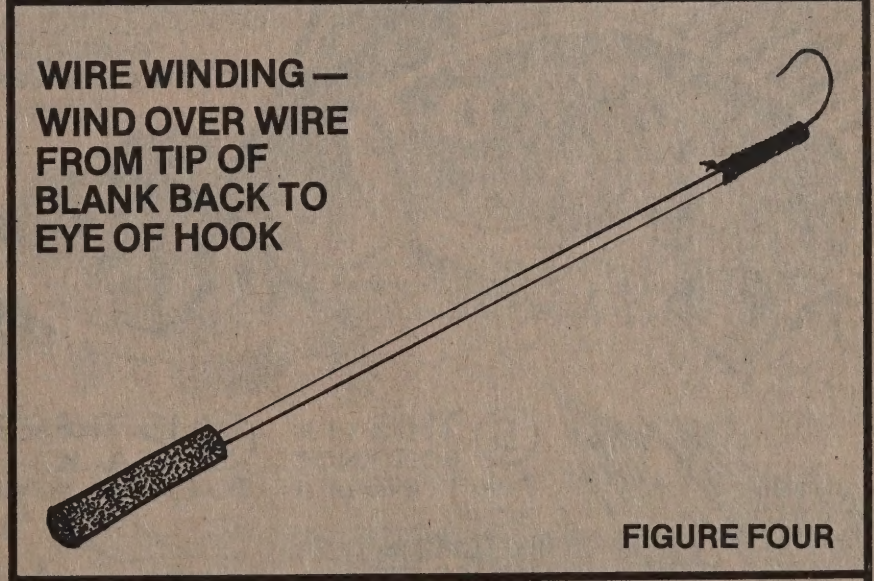


FIGURE FOUR

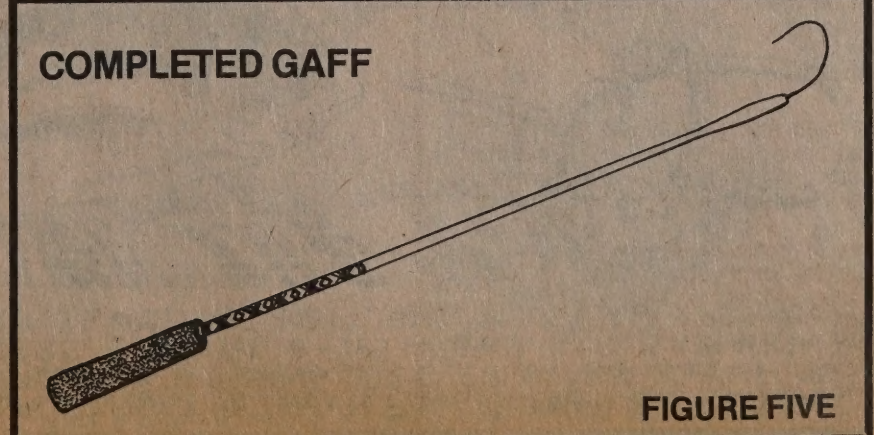


FIGURE FIVE

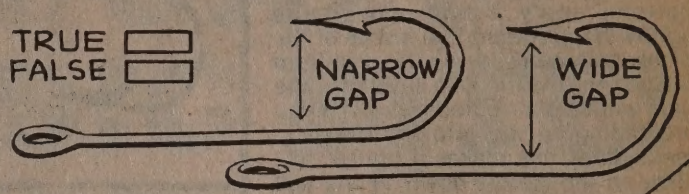
THE FISHERMAN QUIZ

(1) A 1500 LB. SWORDFISH HOOKED OFF TAURANGA, NEW ZEALAND IN 1968 BATTLED AN ANGLER FOR 32 HOURS AND 5 MINUTES WHILE TOWING THE 12 TON BOAT FOR 50 MILES BEFORE BREAKING OFF! WHAT WAS UNUSUAL ABOUT THIS FISHING TRIP?

ANSWERS AT THE BOTTOM OF THE PAGE.

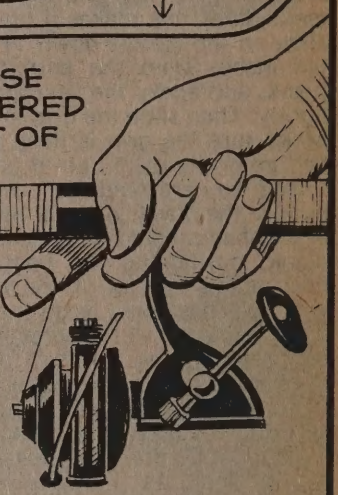
(2) HOOKS WITH A WIDE GAP BETWEEN SHANK AND POINT USUALLY HAVE MORE HOLDING POWER THAN THOSE WITH NARROW GAPS.

TRUE ☐
FALSE ☐



(3) WHICH OF THESE INVENTORS PIONEERED IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SPINNING REEL?

A. CHAS. F. ORVIS ☐
B. PETE MALLOCH ☐
C. AL ILLINGWORTH ☐
D. NONE OF THESE ☐

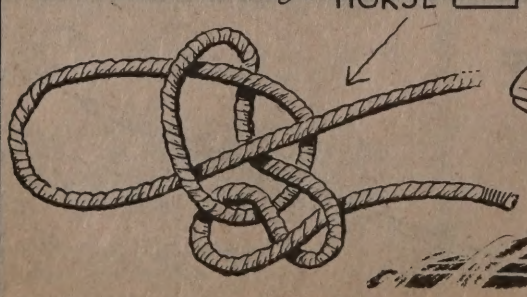


(4) THE MORTALITY RATE AMONG YOUNG BLUEGILLS IS SO HIGH THAT CATCHING BREEDING FISH COULD LEAD TO EXTINCTION.

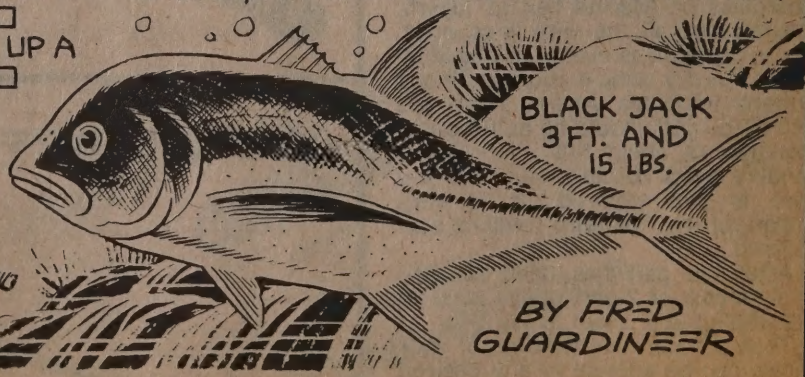
TRUE ☐ FALSE ☐

(5) THIS IS A GOOD KNOT FOR TYING UP A

BOAT ☐
HITCHING UP A HORSE ☐



(6) IS THERE SUCH A FISH AS A BLACKJACK AND ARE THEY GOOD TO EAT, A YOUNG LADY READER ASKS?



BY FRED GUARDINEER

1-IT IS THE LONGEST RECORDED FIGHT BETWEEN FISH AND MAN. 2-TRUE. 3-B.C. 4-FALSE. IT COULD BE BENEFICIAL BY THINNING OUT OVERLY LARGE POPULATIONS OF THESE PROLIFIC BREEDERS. 5-BOTH. 6-YES, VIRGINIA, THERE IS A BLACKJACK-DISTRIBUTED WORLD WIDE IN TROPICAL WATERS AT 300 FT. RARELY CAUGHT AND IS POISONOUS!

— ROD BUILDING SERIES —

DECORATIVE WRAPS

Part Seven — *by C. Boyd Pfeiffer*

In addition to the guide wraps used to hold guides in place on a rod, there are additional wraps which are usually added to most fishing rods. Some are relatively simple and standard, while others are optional and can be simple or as complex as you wish to make them.

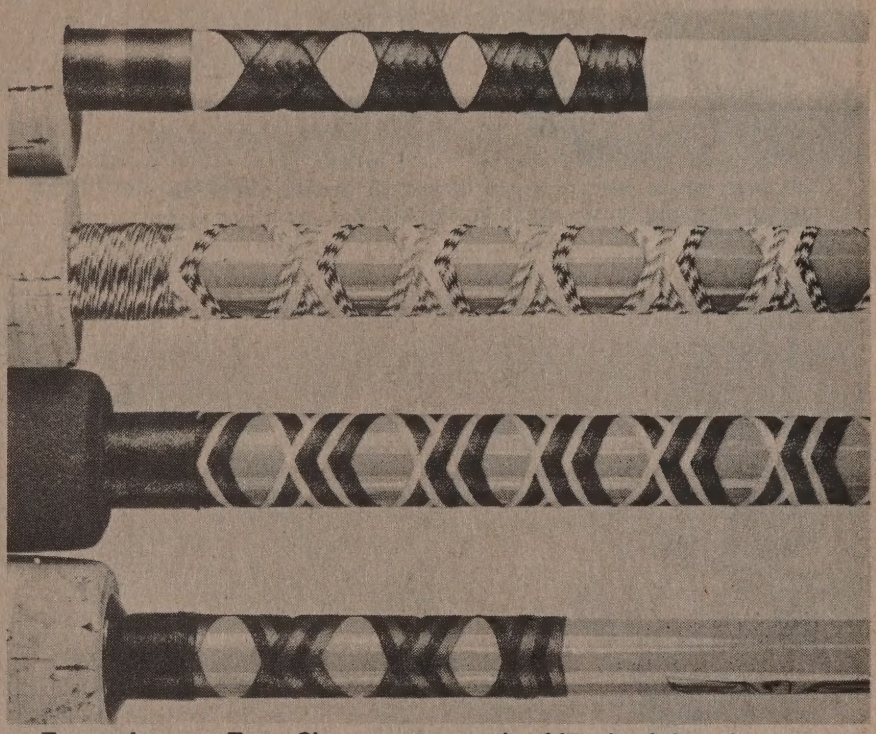
First, "trim" or decorative wraps are placed at certain points on the rod blank. These use the same size and color of thread used on the guide wrap to complement the guide wraps. Trim wraps are standard at the tiptop, where the wrap is about the same length as on one of the upper guides. Wraps are also placed at the handle to provide a decorative wrap where the handle meets the rod blank.

Similar wraps are usually necessary on the ferrules of modern rods. Most rods today have the "self" type of ferrule, meaning that the ferrule is built into the rod blank and made of the same materials. Begun by Fenwick in the 1960s, a "self" type of ferrule of some type is now standard on almost all rod blanks. Because of this type of ferrule, the ferrule must be wrapped to give the female section of the ferrule "hoop" strength to keep it from splitting or cracking as you cast or fight a fish. While the female is the only side of the ferrule that must be wrapped on the Fenwick style of ferrule, those rods with a spigot type of ferrule should be wrapped on both sides (butt and tip section). A spigot ferrule is one in which a separate section of fiberglass or graphite is glued into the butt section of the rod so that this section will mate with the lower end of the tip section of the rod.

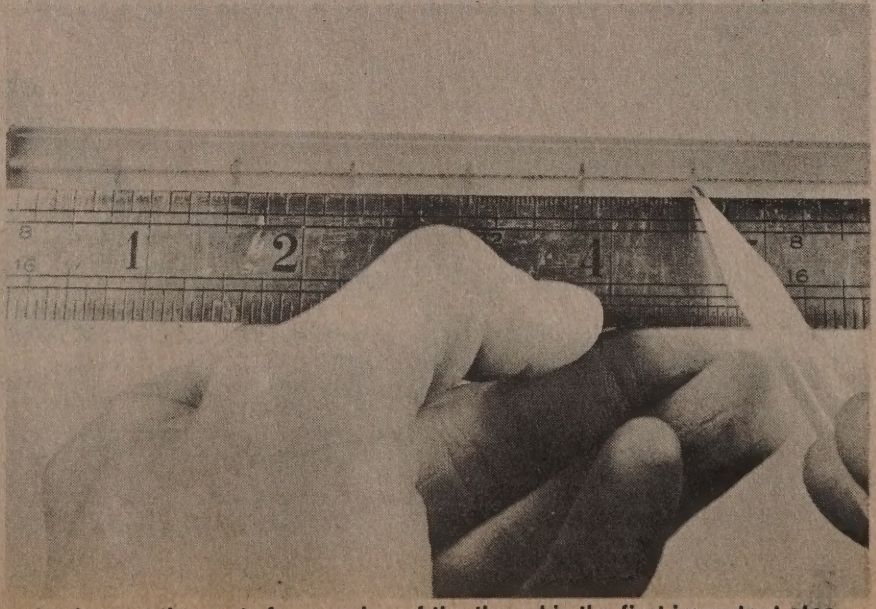
Failure to do this step, even for light practice casting of a rod with the guides taped in place may result in ferrule failure.

In addition to the above, decorative wraps can be used at the handle/rod blank juncture, to make for a fancier, more personal rod. These wraps are called diamonds, double diamonds, chevrons, checkerboard wraps, etc., and can be simple or complex. They are strictly optional. Some anglers love them, while others feel that since they won't catch any more fish, they are a waste of time and effort. While these decorative wraps can be done in any type of rod, they generally look best on larger rods. They will stand

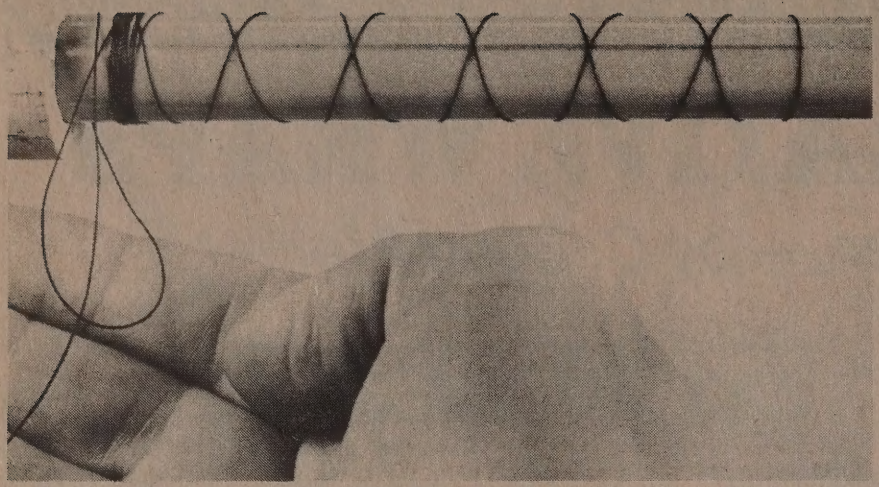
(Continued on next page.)



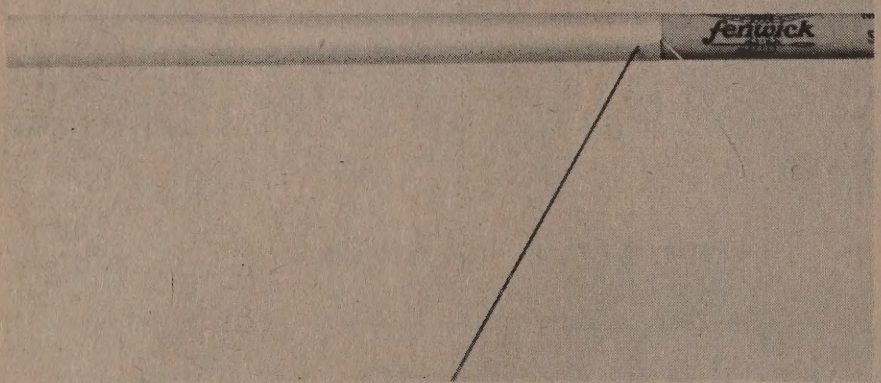
Types of wraps: Top—Chevron wrap made of bands of threads; second from top—chevron type made from Gudebrod Butt Wind in different colors; third from top—chevron wrap; and bottom—chevron wrap.



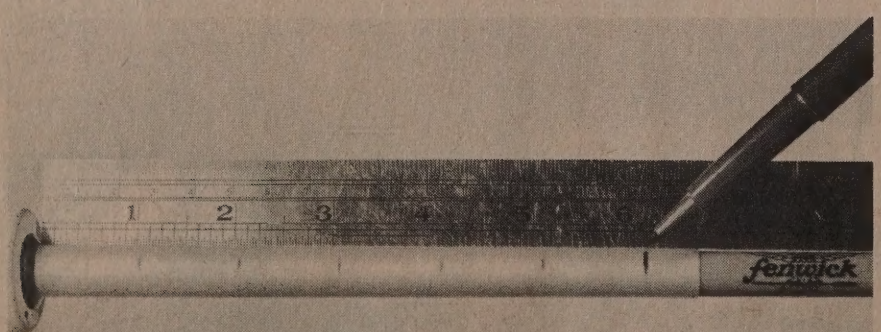
Laying out the spots for crossing of the thread is the first important step in making any decorative wrap. Here, an axis line has been drawn on the blank and measurements are being taken to mark the spacings of the diamonds.



First wrap made with a single strand of thread, showing the thread crossing over the marks made on the blank.



A better method for making decorative wraps is to make them over a base wrap of thread. Use white or a neutral shade as shown here. Here the base wrap is being finished off using the same method as for a single guide wrap.



Making marks for thread crossings on a base wrap. For photo clarity, marks shown here are heavier than they should really be; use as light a mark as possible.

out best on white rods, which also allows use of any color(s) of thread without clashing with the blank color.

Basically, these wraps are nothing more than repeat patterns of thread criss-crossed up and down the blank, making sure that the thread crossings are lined up perfectly with the guides and that they are spaced evenly along the blank. Using this basis, there is a simple way that you can get a similar effect. Gudebrod make a Butt Wind in eight colors including solid white, black, wine, green and brown and salt and pepper mixtures of white and brown, black and green.

This 3/32'' wide cloth webbing makes it easy to get a wide band or wrap in one step, by wrapping up and down the rod in front of the handle. This method is used by some of the major rod companies to dress up their factory rods. The advantage is that it is easy to do in only a few minutes, while the disadvantage is that it never looks quite as detailed and dressy as the wraps made with repeated patterns of single threads. This wrap is finished off by making a simple wrap (like a guide wrap) at the base of the wrap just above the handle.

Whether you opt for a Butt Wind wrap, diamond, chevron or some other combination of wrap, the basics of laying out the wrap are all the same and are very important to get a professional, finished result. To lay out the wrap, realize that you will end up with crossed bands or threads on top of the rod and also on the opposite side of the rod. As a result, you must lay out where threads are to cross.

Usually this layout is best done on a base wrap of a light or neutral color wrap, five to six inches immediately above the handle (depending upon how long you want your decorative wrap). Begin and finish off this base wrap just as you would a guide wrap, by tucking under the first beginning thread and using a loop of thread to pull the end of the thread through the wrap. While you can make the wrap over a bare blank, the base of thread will prevent thread slippage of the spiral wraps and make the task easier.

Once this base wrap is complete, wrap a piece of masking tape around both ends of the wrap to use for marking the wrap alignment. Then carefully sight along the reel seat hoods and the center of the guides to mark the center line of the wrap. Place marks on both wraps of masking tape. One easy way to do this so that you can end up with thread crossings completely opposite each other is to use 1½ turns of the masking tape with the tape slightly spiraled so that you can make a mark on two wraps of the tape. Then remove the tape, measure the distance between the two marks on the tape and make a third mark exactly between them. Replace the tape, with the two marks lined up on top of the rod. The third mark that you made between these two will now mark the rod exactly 180° from the top mark.

With these marks in place, use a

straight rule to line up between the marks along the axis of the rod. Beginning at the rod handle, measure and mark the rod at even distances between the two alignment marks.

This spacing is entirely arbitrary. If you space the marks close together, you will have diamonds or chevrons close together; while more distant spacing will stretch the diamonds out along the base wrap. Usually a distance of about 1/2" to 3/4" is about right for fly, casting and spinning rods, while 1" to 1½" is average for most surf, boat and trolling rods. Mark lightly with a pencil at each of these spots. Make similar marks on the opposite of the rod, but space them so that they will be **between** those marks on the top of the rod. For example, if you were to start the marks on top one inch from the handle and make for one inch intervals, start those on the opposite side 1/2" from the handle, but then make all subsequent marks one inch apart. This is necessary since the crossing thread on one side of the rod will always be halfway between those on the other side.

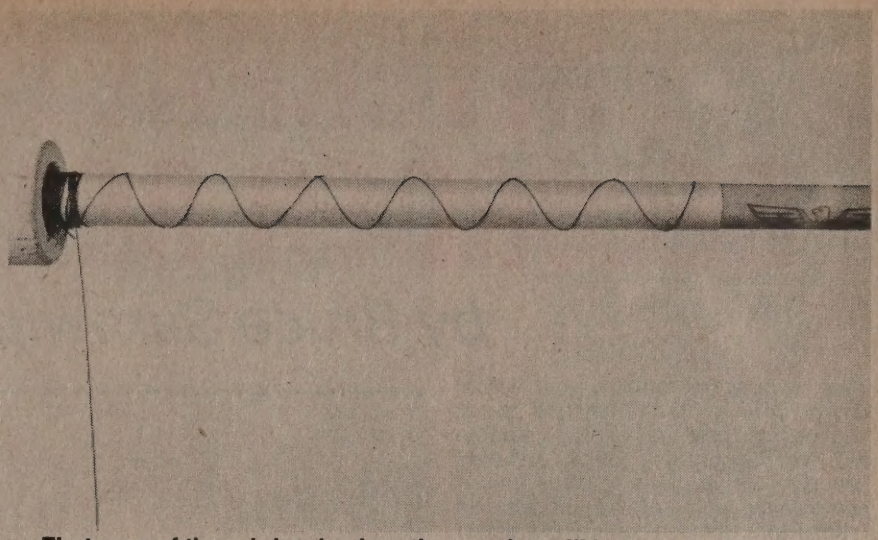
There is another way to lay out the marks for a diamond, using the Tackle Crafters Diamond Master. This tool does require that you lay out the decorative wrap before the guides are wrapped in place, so you must consider this step right after finishing the handle. This set consists of instructions, a 6" length of right angle aluminum, a hole template and a measuring template for spacing guides.

To use the Diamond Master, first make the base wrap. Then choose a hole size in the hole template that will exactly or closely fit the rod blank at the handle. Line up the four quadrant marks on the hole template to align the guides. Mark the rod. Then remove the template and choose a second hole that will fit the rod 6" above the handle.

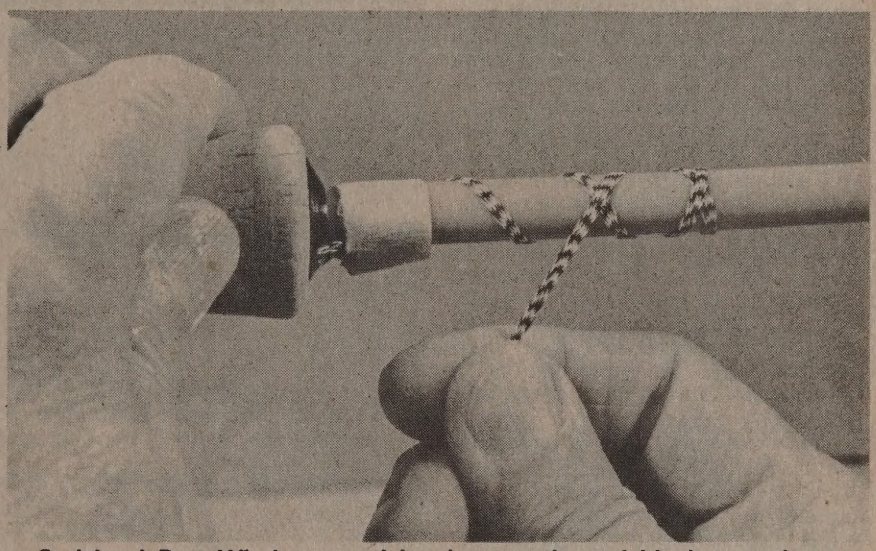
Slide the hole template into place, place the right angle aluminum on the rod to line up the first marks. Then line up the quadrants of the second hole to assure perfect alignment. Remove the hole template and place the spacing template along a line between the two marks. This has inserts cut for equal measuring of almost any distance spacing from 3/32 up to 3", without error and without counting ruler marks or calculating fractions of an inch. Mark the centers of the diamond with this template and you are ready to wrap.

Use the same technique on the opposite side of the rod, but space the first mark halfway between those on the opposite side as mentioned above. Once you have all the markings in place, you are ready to begin the wrap. The rest is relatively simple, since the tedious and important part of any decorative wrap is in laying it out and checking the first thread wrap.

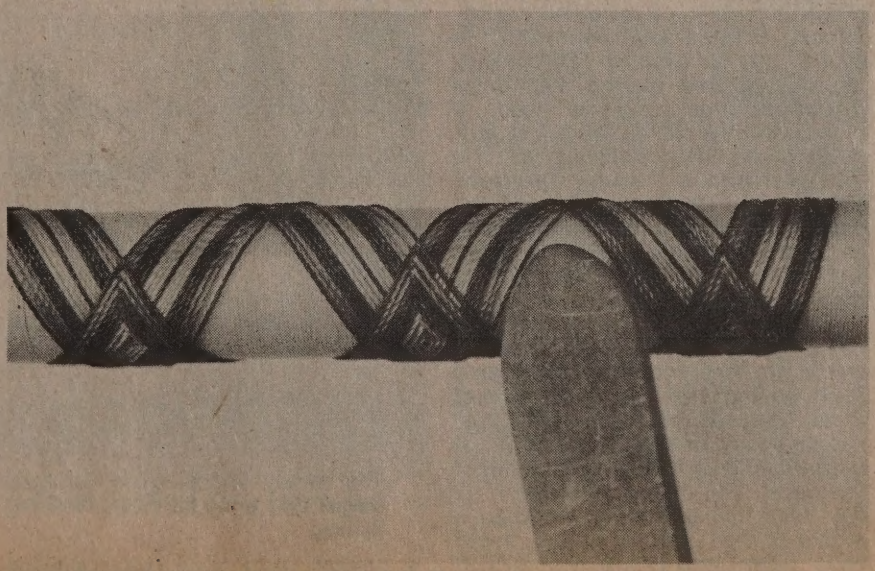
Next Week: Making simple diamonds and chevrons.



First wrap of thread showing how the crossing will be on both sides of the rod. Note that the crossings on one side are in-between those on the opposite side of the wrap.



Gudebrod Butt Wind wrapped in place on the rod blank to make a decorative wrap. Here, a two-tone wrap is used, and it is only run up the blank for a short distance. Other wraps are available and a decorative wrap can be made of any length.



At the end of any wrap such as this diamond, some threads might have to be pushed in place. Use a burnisher or "pusher" as shown to move threads around. Initial thread wrap must be aligned this way to assure an accurate decorative wrap.

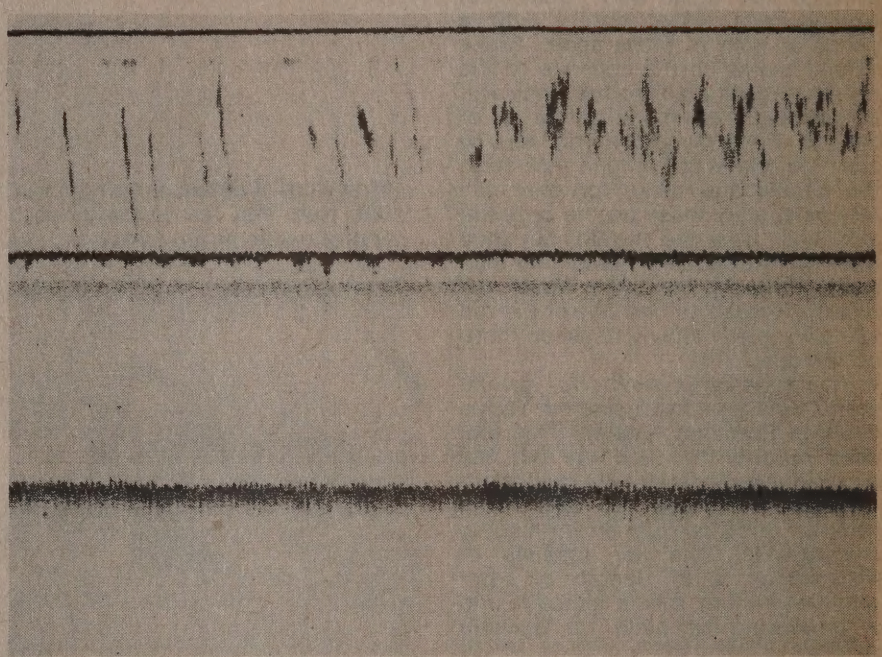
INTERPRETING RECORDER READOUTS

by Bruce Surowiec

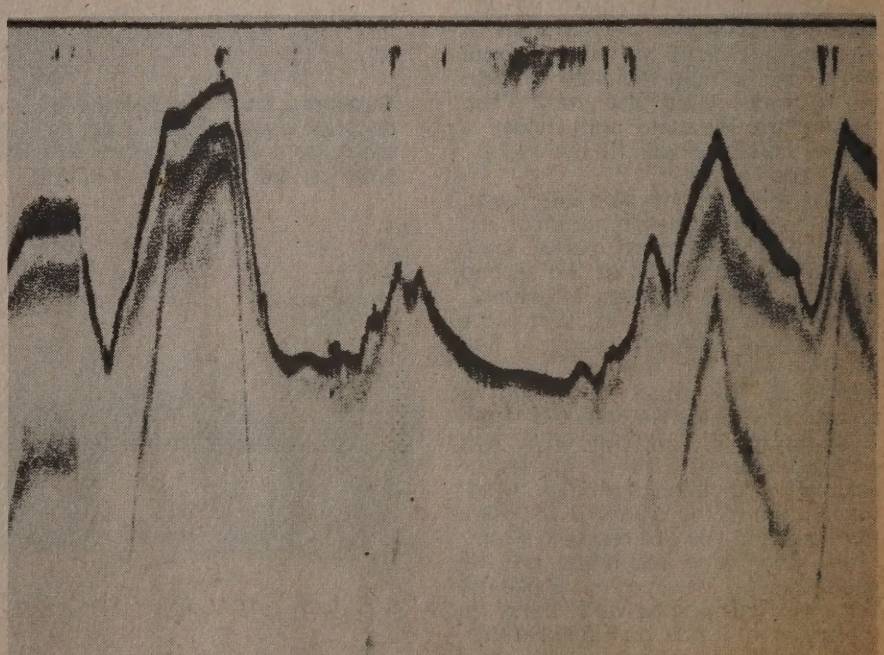
That magical box aboard your vessel is not only a fish-finder and depth sounder, but also serves as a valuable aid for navigation. Once installed properly, all we have to do is give it some juice, and—presto, it does its job tracking fish and giving the depth of the water below the boat. It is amazing! Or is it?

If you are thinking of purchasing a depth finder or have just bought one, realize that there are some downfalls involved. Yes, simply give it some juice and it will perform; but as almost every piece of fishing gear goes, proper use will yield the best results. A flounder outfit selling for $100 will not outfish a dropline fished skillfully. And so it goes with your electronic equipment. Turning a set on and getting a "good" readout is not that easy. I am not an electronics expert, and so it took over a dozen trips to "learn" my machine. The settings for power and gain were adjusted with the precision of a safe-cracker. The white line setting was gently nursed as if it were a newborn baby and still it took time and a few phone calls to my buddies in order to get the results the manufacturer guaranteed. The fish-finder is a truly magical instrument, but time is necessary for the owner to develop the skill needed to get the set's best results.

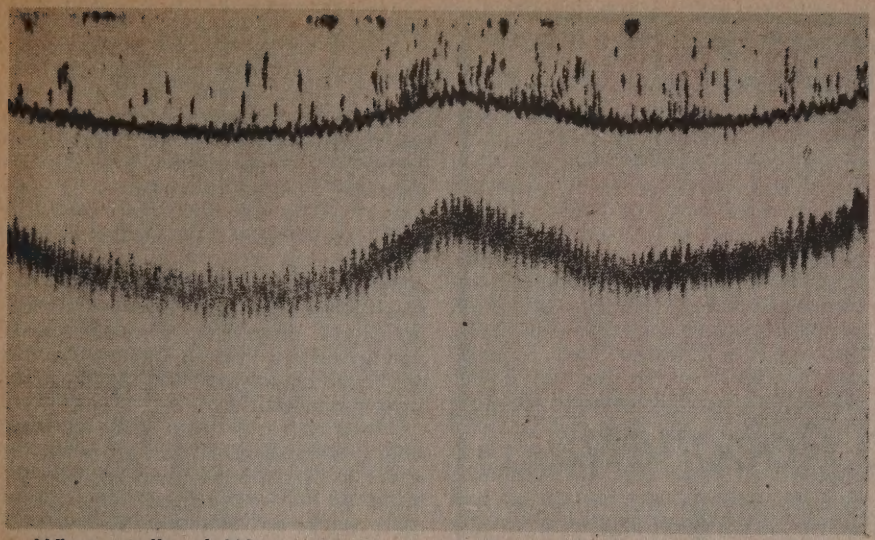
There are many models, styles, and manufacturers of quality depth-finders. Prices range from $100 to over $1,000 for each set. By consulting a reputable marine electronics dealer and describing your needs, a high quality set can be yours. Let your fingers do the walking in the "Fisherman's" advertisement section. I've dealt with two of the dealers advertising in the Fisherman and was very satisfied with the prices and service. My only suggestion to those of you thinking about buying a fish-finder is to consider a model that has a flasher for the depth and also charts the topography of the ocean's floor. Buying a set having only one of these features will not make your fishing easier or more productive. A flasher will only indicate the depth of the water. You'd have to watch it all day long to determine whether a school of fish are swimming under your boat, and then it's almost impossible to ascertain whether it's actually fish or the bottom. A set that only charts the bottom will enable you to go through a case of chart paper in a season and run the machine excessively when you only want to know the water's depth. Keeping this in mind, consider a set that features both. The prices of food, fuel, clothing, etc., have risen greatly in the past few years, but marine electronics have actually dropped in price. My set sold for $750 two years ago. Last season it could have been



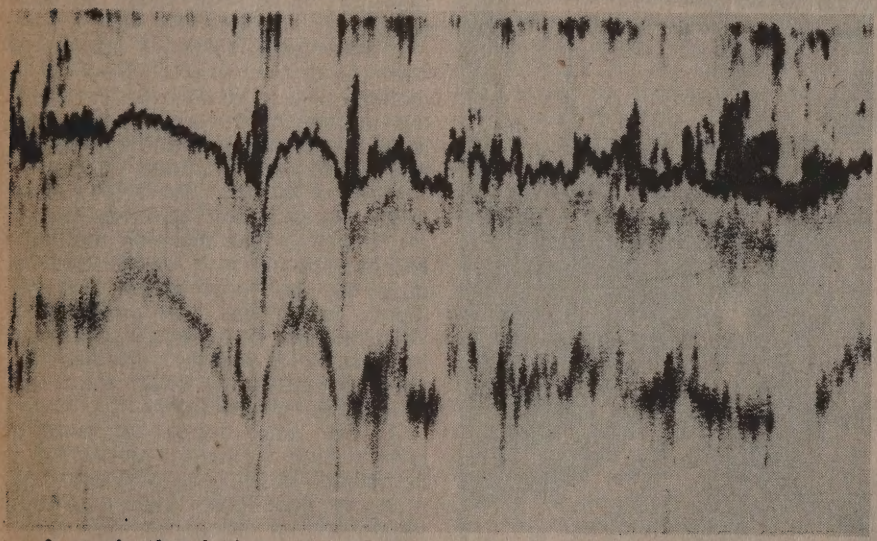
Not a fish story; over a ton of mackerel were caught by eight anglers as the machine "found" the fish in 50' of water.



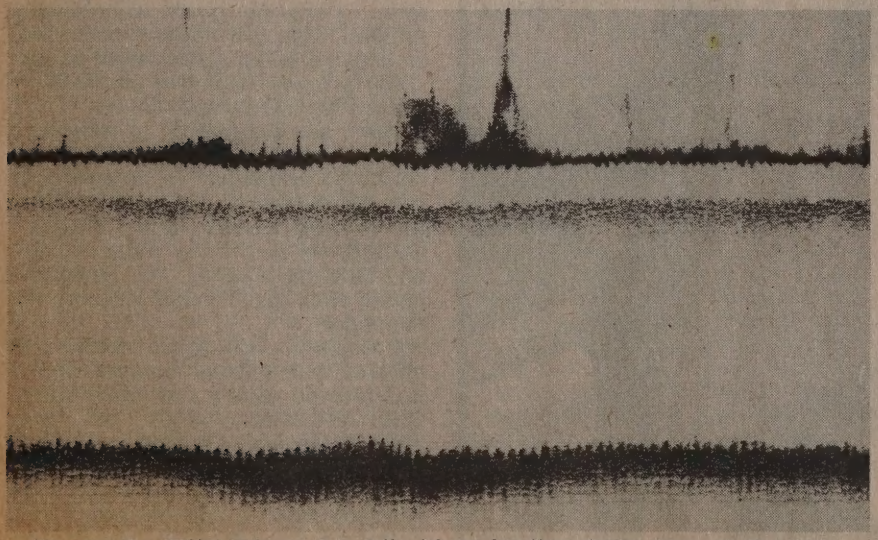
The Jersey Shore—great topography to fish! The machine told us to forget this area for now. Nothing much is shown for real productive fishing.



What readings! Weaks, blues, and bait outside of Deb's Inlet. This readout allowed us to jig up a mess of fish when other boats in the area went fishless and probably didn't have a recorder on board.



A productive inshore wreck that provided great bottom fishing for porgies, sea bass, and blacks.



No, not the Eiffel Tower: 6 to 8 lb. blues feeding down deep on the bait above.

purchased for $450. This is not a "come-on," but now may be the time to buy.

A fish-finder is a great gadget. It has put many more fish aboard my boat, located some great pieces of bottom, and has saved me much time and fuel. The modest investment should yield great results for many years to come.

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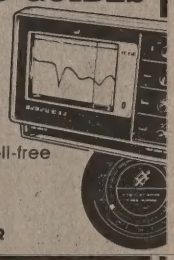

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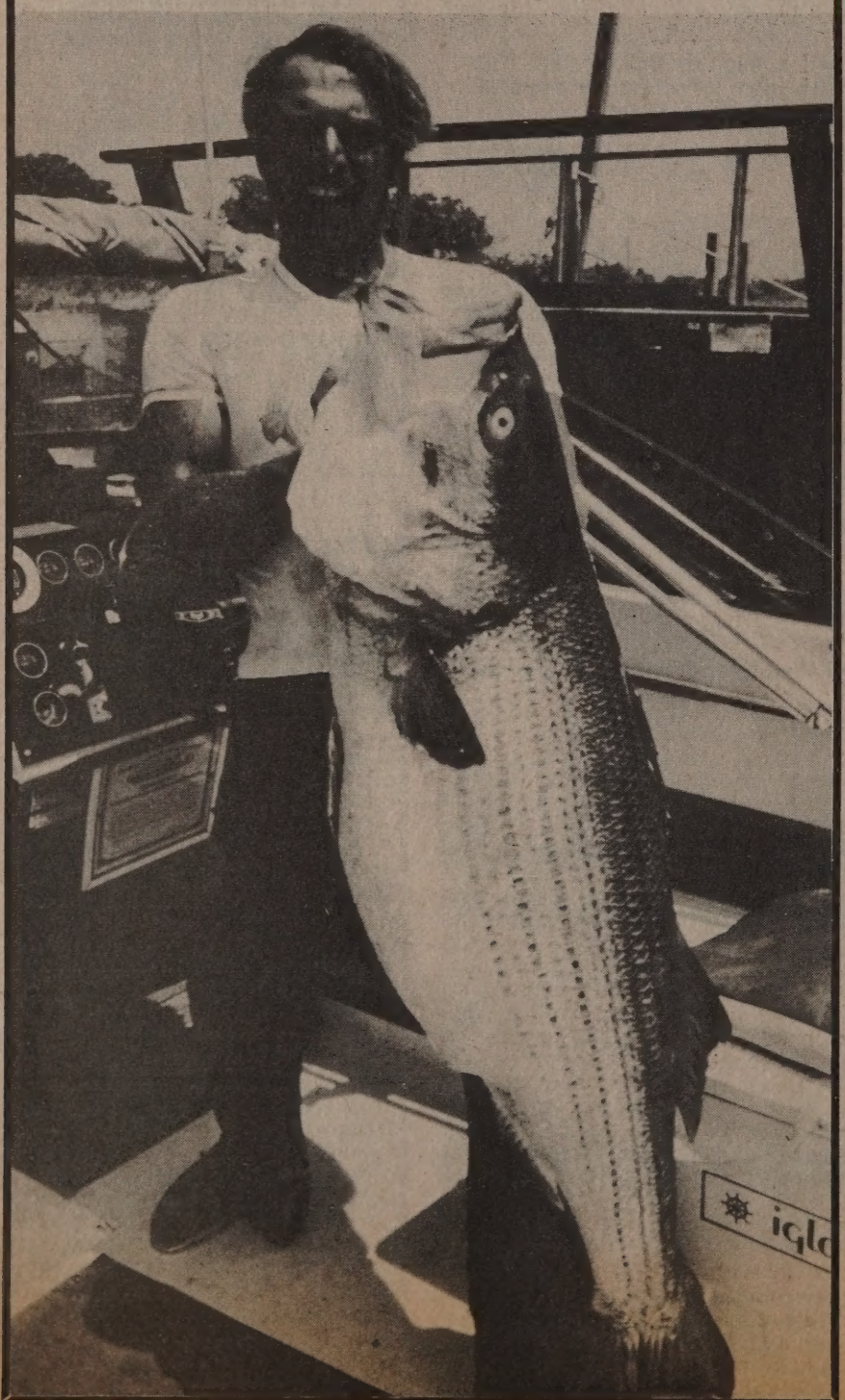
WORLD RECORD STRIPER

by Capt. Bob Rocchetta



Since I was a young boy, I've been in love with Long Island's waterways. They have played an important part in my life. Fishing with my father, we used to stalk the many species of fish that swam the unusual contours of the North Shore. Learing and growing by his side, I hoped to someday be the fisherman he was. The years passed, and I lost my Dad. I would fish alone, remembering all he had taught me. As I got older, I fished harder and more often than ever before, leaving no stone unturned. I read every fishing article I could get my hands on. There was a yearning in me to be fishing constantly.

There came a time when all my efforts were directed to seek what to me is the most elusive and challenging of all fish: the striped bass. Little did I realize the time and toil it would take to master the catching of "Old Linesides." It was no longer the school fish that interested me, but the legendary cows that swam so elusively.

In the early 1970s, I bought a 4-wheel drive vehicle. Now with mobility, I could venture farther along the beaches in search of those lunker bass. Rounding the Island's shores, I had met some of the finest fishermen I've ever known. Collecting and practicing each technique they taught me, I began to perfect their methods and develop my own. My surfcasting days had produced some fine 30 lbers., yet I was still unsatisfied. Watching the birds working beyond the reach of my cast, I realized the need to extend my effort from the beaches to new territory.

At that time, unable to afford a sleek fishing machine, I settled for a homemade wood boat that cost me more in time than money to put together. The old garvey was soon replaced by a used fiberglass boat. It was with this boat—the Rainbow—that my fishing goals were finally fulfilled. I caught many big stripers on her, including several over 50 lbs.

My primary fishing grounds were from Plum Gut and Orient Point easterly along the chain of islands to Fisher's Island. In 1977, I headed south to Montauk to investigate reports of several big catches. With my fishing buddy, Bill "Packy" Collins, we confirmed those reports and saw the potential for large and varied catches. Montauk became my home port.

It was while fishing off Montauk, in an area called Great Eastern, that I was blessed with the ultimate catch. One I dreamed of often, but never really expected. On July 17, 1981, shortly after the partial eclipse of the full moon, I landed the largest bass I'd ever seen. It was preceded by a frustrating evening of inactivity. Tired and bored, my 13-year-old companion, Eddie Tirpak, fell asleep. My fishing partner, John Alberda, in his own boat, was fishing nearby. We would take turns checking different ranges to no avail. Finally, a word of encouragement came. "Hey, Bob.

In his own words, the man who lived the dream of thousands, tells more than just a fish story. It is a lesson in love and dedication.

Got one in the boat," John told me of the first fish of the night. It was well into the outgoing tide and I was hoping John's catch signaled the start of "the bite."

I kept pounding the range I'd been fishing. I waited for my eel to give me the telltale sign that the fish were starting to feed. It was the radio that told me of more fish: John had another. He spotted more on his recorder and told me to get over there. I left my unproductive spot and headed over. From the top of the range, I made my first drift. Viewing the bottom through my white line recorder, I, too, had seen the fish. I was no longer tired. I was the hunter stalking his quarry. As we drifted together, my frustration was mounting. In the moonlight, the arc in John's rod told me of his next catch.

Questioning John on what techniques he was using, he told me to relax and use the same old technique: two turns off the bottom and "bow to the fish." ("Bowing to the fish" means that you hold your rod high over the horizon. As you feel the hit, you lower your tip, free-spooling gently until you feel the right line. Then, strike the fish.) Several other regulars showed up and joined our drift. Within moments, I could hear the whips of their rods setting up. Then I heard the familiar grunts as they powerfully sank home their gaffs and lifted large bass.

As I made my next drift, I noticed on my recorder, a large mark slightly off the bottom at the top of the peak. There was no doubt: a large bass feeding. Two drifts later, she was still there. It was my turn. I felt the eel give the sign as it tried to flee from the feeding bass. Finally, I got the hit. Bowing to the fish, I readied myself to set the hook. The line started peeling off my Ambassadeur reel smoothly and steadily. Thumb down, locking the spool, I could see the line becoming taut. Pointing the rod straight at the fish, I prepared for the final pull. As the line started peeling with more power than I had expected, it burned from under my thumb. I struck the fish. Unable to keep enough pressure on the spool, it backlashed! Upset that things were not happening as usual, I attempted to untangle the mess. I couldn't accept the fact that I might lose my first fish of the night. As she pulled, each loop in the snarl drew down tighter. I knew that shortly it would end in a sudden stop at the knot. Slack out, loops drawn tightly, my arms and rod went straight out into the water. Knees tucked under the gunnel, I stretched my body out and over the rail, yielding to the tremendous pull of what I knew was a large fish.

In fear of losing her, I knew I must do something. One hand on the rod butt, one hand clinching the line so the mono would no longer pull at the knot, I lifted the rod with all my might. As the rod tip kept diving, it became a tug-of-war. Finally, raising the tip high enough to clear the rail, I backed up, pulling the line as far as I could. Working the rod back over my head, I then lowered the tip and reeled as fast as I could. As she tugged and pulled me back to the rail, I socked down tight on the drag, then finally got a few turns on the reel. I repeated this technique, knowing I had but a few feet to give the fish when she'd make another run.

I gained more line and confidence as the layers of line spooled onto my reel. My feeling of safety didn't last for long. She peeled out all the line I had taken in as though the tightness of the drag wasn't there. Back down to the knot! On the low end of the stick again, my paranoia returned.

I wanted this fish. She was big. I could feel her weight as she displayed all the characteristics of a big fish on the line. Again where I started, I went back to my first technique: backing to the windshield, then reeling fast. It worked and I pulled harder than ever before. Now I would chance ripping the hook from her mouth, rather than hit that knot one more time. It was an instant replay.

My rod tip was limber. She was the first fish on this new rod, but its balance was right and it absorbed the pounding and pulling of her fight. Contrary to most large fish I've caught, which usually run twice, this one was now going for her third run. At least a 50 lber., I thought to myself hopefully. Or could it be foul-hooked? If so, how much more of this fight could go on before something else would go wrong and I'd lose her? Would the hook pull out? Would the line break?

Once again regaining line, this time I could feel her slow up as I worked her to the boat. This was the longest fight I'd ever had with a striper, and for the first time she broke the surface. A good 30' from the boat, I could see her finning in the moonlight. Her pull was not as strong and my drag was holding as I reeled. Then with a slap of her tail, she dove again, almost to the bottom. I didn't believe her power and determination. As she leveled out, I hoped that she would soon be mine. Shortly thereafter, I saw her again, this time at the side of the boat, belly up and fatigued after the 15 minute battle. She lay there, appearing almost helpless and surrendering.

Awakened by all the commotion, young Eddie stood there waiting for direction. "Eddie, hand me the gaff," I ordered, telling him it was a big one. I laid my rod against the rail, grabbed the leader, and struck home with the gaff. As I lifted the heavy fish, the handles broke loose from the gaff. Falling back slightly, I then prepared to go swimming if necessary to recover her. But she sank below the surface only a few feet and I was able to grab the end of the gaff. Pulling the gaff lightly back to the boat, I put one hand under her gill and one on the gaff head. I lifted with every ounce of strength I could muster. Over the rail she came, into the boat at last! Eddie and I gazed at her in amazement. "What is it?" Eddie asked. I told him it was the biggest cow bass I had ever seen.

In total excitement, like a rookie after catching his first big bass, I ran to the radio to tell my friend, John. Calmly, he said, "Good, now get back up here and catch some more." I turned to young Eddie and said, "Now it's your turn." Shortly thereafter, Eddie boated his first large bass, a 35 lber.

At daybreak, with the fishing done for the night, it was back to the dock for breakfast and weighing the fish. Unable to remove her from the boat by hand, we needed to use the pulley lift to get her up on the dock. John, seeing the fish for the first time, gave me a confident nod and said, "I'll weigh her; you stand over there." Surrounded by several of the local fishermen, some of the best bass fishermen on Long Island, John announced, "Seventy-five pounds—a world record!" The commotion began. With the help of Captain Frank Braddock of the "Hurry Up," Captain Jack Passie of the "Windy," and Carl Darenberg of the Montauk Marine Basin, the requirements and paperwork for the IGFA were completed. The official weigh-in was not 75, but 76 lbs.!

The next few hours were filled with excitement—reporters, photographers and well-wishers. The fish was taken to Eastern Taxidermy in Farmingville for mounting. The excitement continued into the next week as congratulations came in from across the country.

Several days later, after the taxidermist's work was completed, I couldn't see fit to discard this special fish as garbage. Accompanied by young Eddie, I packed the now distorted carcass into my boat and returned her to the waters off Montauk where she had passed for the last 25 years. As she disappeared below the surface, young Eddie asked, "Do you think I'll ever catch one that big?" "Eddie, it could've been any one of the fishermen there that night who caught her. We've all paid our dues. But I was the lucky one this time. Work hard and learn as much as you can. Put in your time and, someday, I'm sure the fish you catch will be bigger than mine."

THE NUMBER ONE SURF BAIT

by Gerald Hahn

Like it or not, bait fishing offers the average surfman the best chance of scoring.

The Atlantic menhaden, **Brevoortia tyrannus**, is known to members of the New York fishing community as a "bunker." This distinction may have come about when early commercial fishermen stored oil in the ship's bunker. Storing menhaden, the oiliest baitfish in the sea, amounts to the same thing. Others claim that the Dutch settlers started it all when they referred to the fish's habitat in estuarine waters and coined the name "marsh banker," which later became "moss bunker," and finally "bunker." In other regions along the Atlantic Coast, the fish is known as a "pogy" (north) and "fat back" in the south. Undoubtedly, these and other colorful names, such as pilcher, chebug, and yellowtail shad, have their own origins in the local fish lore.

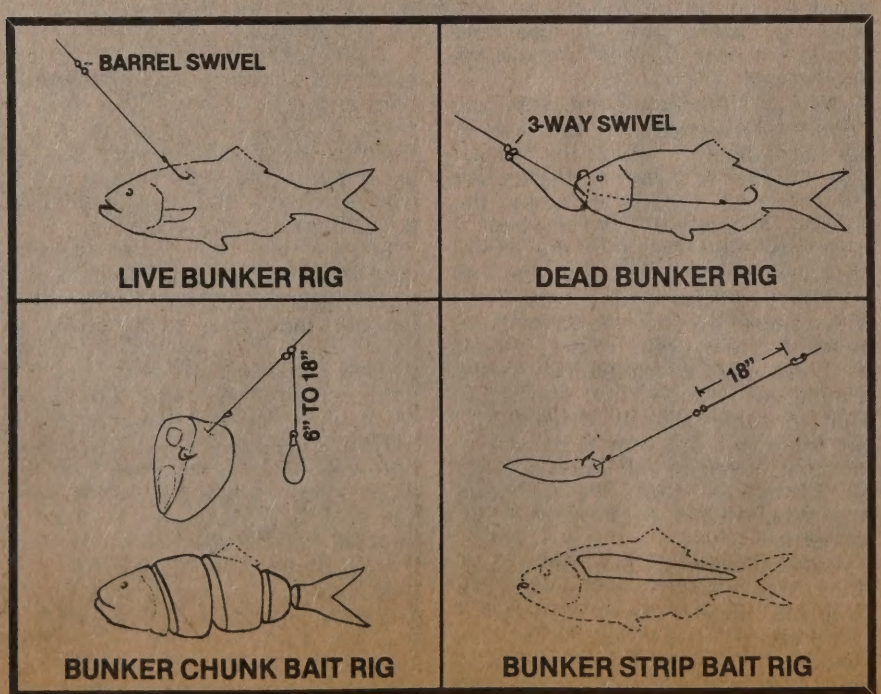
Whatever you choose to call him, the bunker is the most important commercial fish in the United States. Although not fit for human consumption, the bunker's oily, nutrient rich flesh is used as an ingredient in animal and poultry feeds and pet food, and in the processing of printing inks, paints, insecticides, oils and fertilizer. In more ways than one, we should be grateful to Squanto, the American Indian, for burying the hatchet and teaching the Pilgrims how to plant corn with a buried bunker. "Menhaden" is an Indian name.

The bunker is a deep-bodied relative of the herring, with a large head and a dark gray to green-blue complexion flecked with brown on top, and a yellow sheen on the sides and belly. A prominent spot on the shoulder gives him away. Although bunker grow to 18" and weigh up to 4 lbs., the majority are 9" to 12" long and are under a pound. Bunker are a warm water species found in the Western Atlantic from Florida to Nova Scotia; they appear in Long Island from spring to around mid-October. Spawning occurs mostly in the north in the spring and summer, and to a lesser extent in the fall, around Chesapeake Bay.

The gentle bunker feeds almost exclusively on diatoms (vegetable matter) in plankton, which is the basis of the food chain. Unfortunately for the poor bunker, however, every major predator, including man, finds him desirable, and he is readily eaten by sharks, whales, porpoises, tunas and cod. Boat fishermen find bunker invaluable both as bait and chum for predators and bottom species. So do surf men who use bunker primarily for catching predators. No doubt, as many cow bass are caught by shore-bound anglers with bunker as with eels. Similarly, sharp surf men find that tiderunner weakfish prefer bunker to worms or squid, especially in the fall when the fish fatten up before migrating. Bluefish, most of all, equate bunker with filet mignon.

Before 1976, immense schools of bunker were readily spotted by surfcasters throughout the season. In the early 70s, I remember bluefishing at Shoreham Inlet, where the bunker were so compact I could even see them slapping the surface water in the middle of the night. At dawn, the glassy waters of Long Island Sound would suddenly appear textured in an area the size of a football field, and thousands of bunker would ooze toward shore like an outsized amoeba. Pastoral shepherds were not herding the terrified fish. Vicious blues were. Since then, there has been a noticeable decline in the bunker population, partly because of their inexplicable cycles of abundance and scarcity, and partly the result of overharvesting by commercial draggers.

Even so, schools of bunker are still spotted by surf casters along the South Shore bays and inlets and on the North Shore, especially in the western half of Long Island Sound. The greatest bunker schools are seen during their migration in late-September and October. Since every decent surf man prefers his bait fresh, he always carries a snatch hook for bunker. A snatch hook consists of a large, 8/0 to 10/0 treble hook with a hunk of lead mounted to the shaft. An ordinary treble hook may serve as a snatch hook, by threading an egg sinker (the kind with a hole through the center) on the line before tying the hook. A small diamond jig or other metal lure under an ounce is also effective when coupled with an oversized treble. In all cases, you want sufficient weight near the hook for distance casting and rapid sinking,



yet not so large a weight that it interferes with the treble's barbs.

A 9' surf rod or an 8' jetty stick with a stout tip and a matching reel filled with 20 lb. test is the best outfit for snagging bunker. The snatch hook is tied directly to the fishing line with an improved clinch knot. It is then cast beyond the bunker school, and after a momentary pause, it is retrieved with a forceful pumping of the rod up and down. When the bunkers sound, work the snatch hook deeper. Either way, it is almost impossible to miss snagging one on the first or second try.

Once the wounded baitfish is brought in, you have several choices, depending on its size and condition. A small lively bunker should be transferred to a rig intended for catching predators. For blues, a good rig consists of a 6/0 O'Shaughnessy hook on a 5'' stiff wire leader or a 6'' to 12'' flexible wire leader. Many fishermen use no weight, although some employ a small cinch sinker about 18'' above the hook. For bass, a 2/0 to 4/0 Beak or Bonito hook on an 18'' leader of 40 to 50 lb. test may be used. Wire is not necessary. If your quarry is a weakfish, however, you can get away with a lighter plastic leader of 30 lb. test in the same length as for bass. No matter which predator you seek, use a strong barrel swivel with all these rigs. Live bunker is hooked lightly in the shoulder and lobbed gently in the current, and the bail is left open.

Unfortunately, many live bunker are too heavy for casting. One alternative is to let the snagged fish remain in the water while you pray for a good hookup with the snatch hook. Another problem is that bunker bleed profusely, and by the time the fish is brought in, it is dead. Whole dead bunker may be rigged with the hooks mentioned, by inserting the point through the eyes or in the mouth and out the gill cover, and then near the tail. A clinch sinker above helps the bunker sink. A better method, however, involves two hooks and a three-way swivel. One hook is rigged through the eyes or mouth, as mentioned, and goes to one eye of the swivel. The second hook, on a short snell, is pushed through the bottom of the bunker's jaw and out the upper jaw. This hook goes to the second eye of the swivel. The second hook, on a short snell, is pushed through the bottom of the bunker's jaw and out the upper jaw. This hook goes to the second eye of the swivel. The main line is connected to the third eye with an improved clinch knot. This rig is more secure than the first because the bunker, rigged fore and aft, looks natural and does not curl or disintegrate.

Many fisherman favor converting heavy, dead bunker to chunk bait, because it lasts longer and it easier to cast. The fish is cut into thick steaks, one of which is selected from the prime mid-section and rigged. Because the bunker's flesh is so soft, a long-shank or wide gap hook, such as a 6/0 to 8/0 O'Shaughnessy, Beak, or Siwash is best for rigging chunk bait. The hook may be attached to a wire or plastic leader, as when live-lining bunker. Since chunk bait is fished primarily on the bottom, however, a sinker of suitable weight is usually added 6'' to 18'' below the hook, with a piece of monofilament. Tie an end loop for the sinker and an improved clinch knot to the upper eye of the barrel swivel (the same one that secures the main line). Impale the chunk through the skin and out near the backbone, then slide the bait up the long shank and insert the point in the meat near the backbone once again. Some anglers add a second, smaller hook on a short snell, tied in tandem to, or looped through the eye of, the first hook. This hook, a 2/0 Beak or Claw, is impaled through the opposite side of the chunk for extra security when casting. Two-hook tandem rigs are sometimes employed with two chunks, such as a head-and-tail combination.

Bunker need not be fished whole or in chunks. In fact, many anglers must resort to store-bought frozen bunker, which is the most difficult to keep on a hook. I often snag a few bunker in Moriches Bay while fishing for fluke, and these baitfish are frozen, as well. Frozen bunker is best cut into long strips taken from the dorsal sides, the belly being too soft. The skin is left intact, and the strips are cut into 1x2 or 1x3 inch lengths, sometimes tapered to a point at one end. The bait's use is extended, and moreover, it stays on the hook better than chunk bait when long casts are required. West end party boat anglers use strips of bunker for blues. Remember to thaw out the bait before rigging it. A short hook, such as a 2/0 or 4/0 Beak or Claw, is excellent for rigging bunker strips (on the leaders already described). The hook is impaled through the skin side near one end, then the strip is pushed up the shank and the point impaled through the flesh once again. Rigged this way, the long pointy end of the strip dangles freely in the current. Strip baits may be fished on top or bottom with sinker connections, as described. Some anglers add a cork float to the leader, although scavengers are seldom avoided this way.

Another rig that is often used with strip baits, chunks, and even whole baits, is a fishfinder rig. This rig consists of an egg sinker on the main line ahead of the barrel swivel on the leader. A moving bait is often desirable, and the rolling egg sinker provides it. The predator, moreover, does not feel the weight of the sinker when he takes the bunker.

Regardless which method you use to rig bunker, always check the hook point and barb for fish scales, for one bunker scale may mean a lost fish.

If your hookup rate with lures or other baits has been poor lately, try switching to bunker. Snagged and fished live or dead, or stored for later use, bunker is still the number one bait in town.

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THE LATEST ON THE TUNA SITUATION

by Al Ristori

Nationally known outdoor writer, conservationist and L.I.F. staffer Al Ristori delivers another update on the state of the bluefin tuna fishery.

Our greatest game fish is in big trouble! The bluefin tuna, overfished for two decades, has been struggling for existence, and the long term outlook is not good. Indeed, the only positive thing that can be said at this point is that almost everyone involved with the fishery finally seems to realize that the situation is really serious.

At the recent New York Sportsman's Expo on Long Island, an angler approached and asked if he should go ahead and rig his boat for giant tuna this year. This individual was planning on buying a big game chair and a couple of 130 lb. outfits for his boat but, with all the rumors floating around, wasn't sure if such an expenditure was justified. That same basic question comes up wherever I go these days. After the State Department meeting in Washington on January 19, I was able to assure everyone that there would indeed be a giant tuna season this year—though it will surely be quite limited. I'll know more about that after joining in State Department negotiations with the Canadians and Japanese this month. Once our reduced quota is negotiated, then it will be divided up among various American interests and areas; and all that will be the subject of public hearings this spring.

Though all the details of what will be available to us this summer aren't available at this time, we can take a look at the bleak picture painted for us by the fishery scientists. Since the mid-70s, anglers have been faced with various restrictions on the bluefin tuna catch in accordance with regulations the United States agreed to in the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT). While these regulations have kept the angling catch of both school and giant tuna at relatively low levels, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) failed to come to grips with the problem of school tuna purse seining.

To compound matters, both NMFS and the State Department failed to impose any significant restraints on the Japanese longliners who slaughtered pre-spawning giant tuna in the Gulf of Mexico each winter, and also did a number on medium tuna in the northeast during late fall. The Japa-

Anglers won't have as great an opportunity to put a "giant" on the scale in '82 as they have in the past. This great game fish is facing a serious crisis.

nese were pretty much free to do as they pleased within our 200-mile limit due to our own exclusion of tunas from the 200 mile limit legislation. Though the official reason given for that action was the designation of tunas as "oceanic fish," the fact of the matter is that all other oceanic species are included in the 200 mile limit—and the tuna exclusion is strictly a political matter which enables the State Department to back up West Coast tuna seiners fishing illegally in the waters of other countries. Not only did the Japanese take advantage of our weakness, but also the Canadians. Though Americans can't even take a private boat to Canada to fish for bluefin tuna, the Canadians send seiners owned by an American corporation to catch school tuna off the Mid-Atlantic Coast every summer. They supposedly were catching 300 tons a year, but there is good evidence to indicate that the catch was more like 800 tons in some years!

The bluefin tuna has suffered not only from the overfishing by American and Canadian seiners and Japanese longliners, but also from the indifference of the State Department and management failure in NMFS. Now that great (and possibly irreversible) damage has been inflicted on the species, there is finally a rush to set things right. Fortunately, the Reagan State Department seems to have the backbone necessary to stand up to the Japanese on this matter. There were no Japanese longliners fishing in our waters at the time this was written, and it appears that they are out of any directed fishery on bluefins—though they will get a by-catch allocation for their other longline fisheries. With the grim statistics from their own scientists in hand, NMFS also appears ready to take relatively severe restrictions to the public hearings this spring.

Without going into great detail, the present state of the bluefin stock can be summarized by scientific data which puts the stocks of juvenile (school) tuna at 12% of the 1960 level and those of adult tuna at 25% of the 1960 figure. The 1973 year class, which recent regulations were designed to protect, was expected to contribute significantly to the western Atlantic spawning stock in 1983, but scientists believe that this single strong year class of the past two decades has been greatly reduced by heavy exploitation. Based on these observations, the scientists feel that with no expected increase in adult stock abundance in the immediate future, the probability of an abundant year class in the near future seems very low.

When the scientists from various countries compared notes at the ICCAT meeting in the Canary Islands last fall, they decided that bluefin tuna fishing in the western Atlantic should be kept as near to zero as possible. The situation on the eastern side of the Atlantic is somewhat better and, as the stocks appear to be basically separate, it was decided to stay with the present regulations on the eastern side. The U.S. delegation then asked for a 565 metric ton scientific quota in order that the stocks could be monitored, and that was bucked up to 800 tons when the Canadians insisted on a larger allocation.

Unfortunately, even the 800 ton catch will impose too heavy a burden on the bluefin tuna stocks—if the scientists are correct. According to the figures available, any fishing at all will further reduce the stocks. Indeed, the situation is so bad that there would be a decrease even with no fishing at all!

The estimate for juvenile (ages 1-4) stock size in 1982 is 691 metric tons. With no fishing there would be a surplus production of 121 tons. The adult stock size is estimated at 13,165 metric tons, but even with no fishing there would be a loss to natural mortality which would exceed adult recruitment and leave a negative figure of 394 tons. That means that with no fishing the adult losses would exceed the juvenile production and leave us with a total loss in tuna stocks of 273 tons. Naturally, the 800 ton catch we're contemplating will only add to that negative picture.

Projecting further into the future, the scientists expect little or no improvement in the total stock through 1992 even if fishing were stopped in 1982. However, a "best case" projection would produce substantial gains within 10 years under those circumstances. On the other hand, the 800 metric ton monitoring catch will likely lead to a slow, but steady decline by 1992 to about half the present stock size. Only the "best case" projection with an 800 ton catch shows any improvement at all over the present stock. If we were to continue fishing at last year's rate, there would be a precipitous decline by the end of 1983 (even assuming adoption of an 800 ton quota in 1983) and an almost complete disappearance of bluefins by 1992!

It should be noted at this point that fishery science is in a league with weather forecasting—and just about as accurate. You can well imagine the difficulties involved with estimating the numbers of unseen fish below the water's surface—and the inaccuracies which occur from time to time. There are very scientific methods involved in this procedure, and it takes both mathematicians and computers to analyze all the information and turn it into something which can be worked with. Unfortunately, the old computer dictum still applies: "Garbage in, garbage out!" Some readers may remember my annoyance with a NMFS study of big game fishing several years ago which "proved," among other things, that there's a hell of a fishery for sailfish north of North Carolina when, in fact, anyone with even a basic knowledge of the fisheries should know that only a few are caught off the Virginia Capes each year—and rarely any at all north of there!

There was also quite a battle among the experts about these figures at the State Department meeting in January. The East Coast buyers hired some professional help, and these people (waving their academic credentials like banners) insisted that the methodology used by the government scientists was all wrong. Proceeding in the fashion these other experts insisted was correct could lead to quite different conclusions. Unfortunately, they still hadn't come up with all the information needed to work out projections and there is still no telling what their figures will show. They're supposed to have this information shortly.

Despite the shortcomings of fishery science, we have little choice but to accept what they come up with. It's easy to point to the shortcomings and say that they are probably wrong, but the fact of the matter is that no one has come up with anything better to work with. It's quite true that there were lots of both school and giant tuna from Block Island to Cape Cod last fall. However, there was very little south and west of there—indicating that most of the stock was jammed into a relatively small area. Appearances can be deceptive in the case of bluefin tuna, since they usually form into large and fairly compact schools which are easily spotted from the air.

Regardless of the exact figures, the problem is obvious to even the casual observer. Bluefin tuna stocks in all sizes are at relatively low levels, and the once abundant 1973 year class seems to have been fished too hard for us to depend on it to fill in the gaps created by years of poor spawning success and overfishing of those school tuna which did survive. This situation leaves us with two alternatives: continue to catch tuna at the present rate and hope for one of those "miracle" spawning years that occurs every so often, or cooperate with severe conservation restrictions and try to build up the stocks to some extent. William Fox, Jr., head of the NMFS Southeast Fisheries Center (which is responsible for tuna research) isn't sure that there is a relationship between stock size and recruitment. However, both are presently declining and experience in other fisheries indicates that there is a better chance of recovery if the spawning stock is kept up.

Fortunately, just about everything I've heard from rod and reel fishermen has been positive so far. Both sportsmen and charter skippers seem willing to go along with whatever restrictions are necessary to save the species. At a meeting in Montauk with Congressman Bill Carney, local charter skippers indicated that they were ready to give up considerable income from the sale of giant tuna if that is necessary.

(Continued on next page.)

Unfortunately, at the State Department meeting, representatives of both the seiners and northern area handliners seemed worried only about how much they could grab for themselves. Indeed, the fishermen representing Massachusetts handliners indicated they wouldn't settle for any reduction at all!

Just how much of a reduction do we face? According to NMFS, the recreational catch of small and medium bluefin tuna last year was 110 metric tons—down from 137 tons in 1980. As previously reported, the scientists feel that by letting this fishery go on as before there will be sufficient catch for monitoring purposes. Unfortunately, there's also additional allocations to the Japanese longliners and American purse seiners for by-catch and the combination of all this fishing will almost surely result in a further reduction in school tuna stocks. Nevertheless, this will be a considerable improvement over the situation of recent years. While the recreational catch of school tuna was hovering around the 100 ton mark, the four East Coast purse seiners were taking between 800 and 1200 tons! Last year they fell a bit short as they could only catch 70% of their 650 short ton quota, plus another 231 short tons in the course of tagging studies. Meanwhile, the Japanese have been taking about 250 metric tons of medium bluefins in their late fall longline fishery—though some experts suspect that the actual figure is much higher.

The giant tuna situation is going to be a lot rougher. Last year there were 1,717 giant tuna taken by handgear along the U.S. East Coast. The total weight was 613.8 short tons for an average of 715 lbs. Only 50.4% of the total handgear quota was caught, despite liberalized regulations. Once again, there were only spurts of fishing in the northern area. Just over half of the general (rod and reel, handline and harpoon) quota was filled. In addition, a separate harpoon category accounted for 149 giants (41.8% of quota) and the charter boat permit holders got only 8 (2.2% of quota). Surprisingly, the average weight of those charter boat fish was a mere 544.8 lbs. On the other hand, the harpooned giants averaged 841.3 lbs. and the mixed gear general category fish averaged out to 798.6 lbs. The overall average for the northern area (north of Cape Cod) was 802 lbs. Within that general category, most of the 1,121 giants were caught on handlines. Rod and reel accounted for 225, totaling 86.6 short tons—an average of 769.7 lbs. per fish.

As anglers fishing around Block Island last year are well aware, there was excellent giant tuna action during the late summer—with the result that the southern quota was actually exceeded. Just as I feared last year when I advocated a rod and reel only restriction for the southern area, handliners and harpooners jumped into the fishery. Most of the catch was on rod and reel—378 giants totaling 87.6 short tons for an average of 463.6 lbs. That was 97.4% of the quota, but 54 handlined giants and 7 more harpooned pushed the catch to 112.6% of quota. Perhaps it's fortunate that the late season fishery in the Mud Hole off the north Jersey coast wasn't anything like the 1981 run. If a significant run had developed NMFS would have had to close the fishery! By the way, this is the first time that the 90 short ton southern quota has been met.

At this point it looks as if we'll be sharing a 400 metric ton giant tuna allocation with Canada. The Canadians have been catching about 250 tons in their highly restricted rod and reel fishery, plus a smaller amount in traps (47 tons in 1980). No matter how that 400 metric ton allocation is divided up, everyone is going to be cut back. Just how much and how badly will be the subject of discussions with NMFS officials and a series of public hearings throughout the spring. One positive aspect is that there doesn't seem to be any objection to unlimited catch and release fishing, even should the season be closed.

Since the scientists didn't require any information from the purse seine fishery on giant tuna, that fishery was supposed to be ended this year. The four boat fleet has had an allocation of 300 short tons, but last year they were able to catch only 52% of that. Nevertheless, that catch alone is more than was taken by all handgear from the southern area last year! Unfortunately, it appears as if NMFS is going to give the seiners 60 tons this year regardless of the fact that the scientists didn't ask for it.

After the consultations with the Canadians and Japanese are finished, I'll have specific recommendations for readers. I'm strongly in favor of a strict conservation program this year and expect that most sportsmen will go along with whatever restrictions are necessary in order to increase the odds that our children will be able to enjoy the greatest of all game fish. In order to ensure that this is truly a conservation program, it will be necessary to fight the allocations being proposed for the purse seiners—which are being given for economic reasons (the well being of a handful of individuals) and have nothing to do with the scientific monitoring program. Furthermore, we should continue to push for restriction of the southern fishery to rod and reel—as has been the tradition in this area. We'll also have to look closely at seasons and limits which will spread a reduced giant tuna fishery over the various areas. With your cooperation we may be able to stem the tide of bluefin decline and still provide a minimum fishery in 1982!

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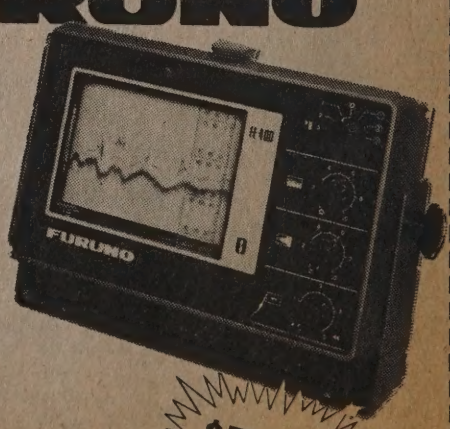

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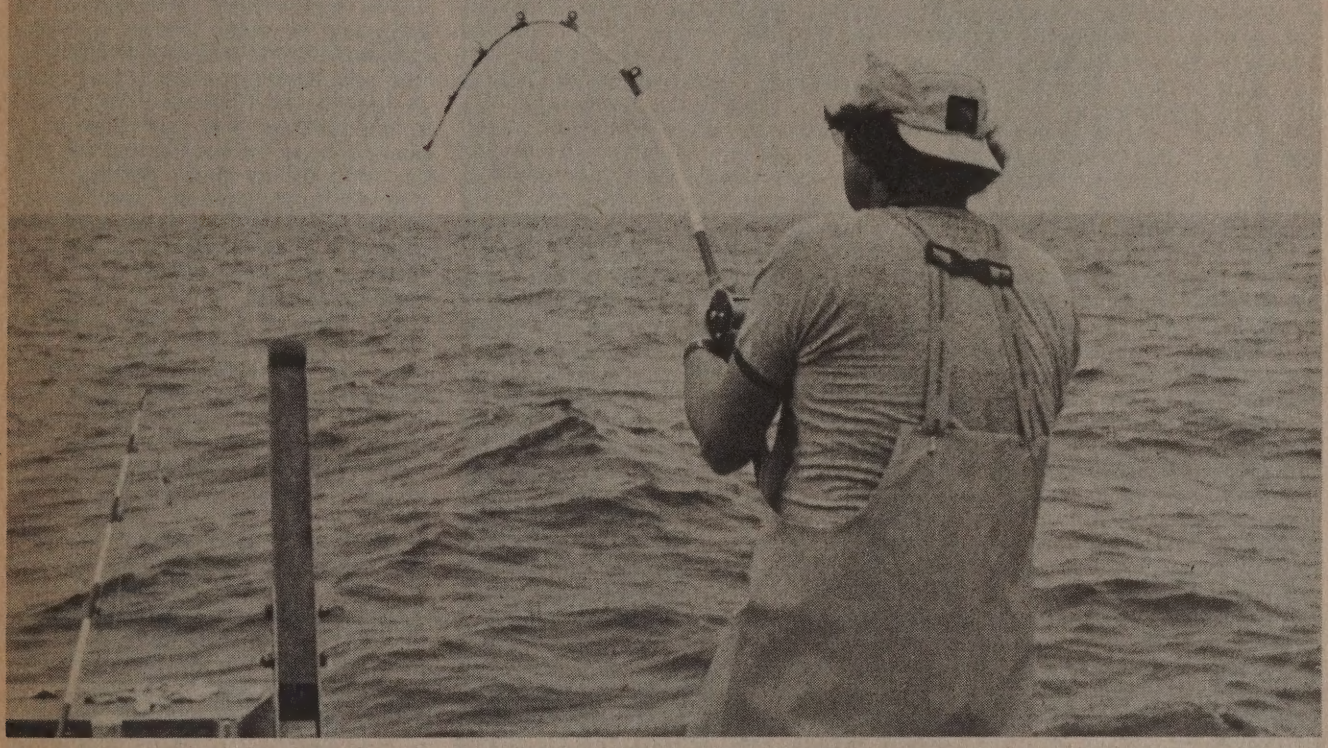
MONTAUK 1981: A LOOK BACK

Part One — *by Capt. John DeMaio*



The following is my annual inshore fishing report as I viewed the season over the transom of my charter boat, **Vivienne.** Most of the reporting has been taken from my daily log book, hence some readers may have somewhat differing view of '81.

My first trip of the season was April 1st, in pursuit of codfish. We bombed out! My charter and I put in a very long day in which we covered the Southwest Ledge area, Hooter Buoy, south of Block Island and 20 minutes east grounds. A big score of four cod was the reward for our efforts. Everywhere we tried seemed devoid of life. No trash fish! In particular, the bergalls were conspicuous by their absence. The following two weeks improved slightly. Not until April 12 did I manage a decent catch of 30 cod. Weather conditions did not help the situation at all. Strong westerly winds that seemed to blow daily only to be relieved by a fair bit of wind from the east was standard fare through April. Several trips had to be cancelled. One day when fighting my way home from Southwest Ledge into a stiff west wind, a big sea rolled over the trunk cabin and took out one of the Vivienne's windshields. So was the weather in April.

A solid charge of fish started what was to be a good run of cod on April 24th at the Hooter Buoy. Three anglers and myself accounted for 75 school size codfish. The following day's charter managed 60. Three weeks of excellent codfishing continued in the Southwest Ledge area. Weather conditions improved only barely. A few cod trips were transformed into flounder trips to avoid the ugly ocean conditions.

Some Montauk skippers thought of this past spring's codfishing as being a good one. I disagree! Yes, the Ledge area was 'hot'' for a few weeks and some boats had days of over 100 cod to the boat. Impressive? Maybe, but not a season. To me, a season showing cod over a large area, or areas, and a longer run of time would constitute a good season. Nor would I call it a poor season. Better weather would have given the opportunity for better fishing. That would have helped, but not been responsible for making a good spring run. All too many spots had an absence of fish. The famous CIA grounds was the usual feast or famine game. Local bottom south of Montauk was picky at best, and the huge area described as ''south of Block Island'' showed very little. Still, with the aid of our Loran sets and the experience of many years, most captains managed to keep their customers happy with respectable catches. Nor was the season without unusual occurrences. In the middle of June (that's right, June) I discovered a large body of big codfish while chasing bluefish offshore. With the aid of jigs and tubes, a week of very exciting codfishing came to pass; 45 cod was the highest one day count. Not much in numbers, but unreal in size. Each trip showed 30, 40 and 50 lb. cod topped off with a couple of hundred pounds of bluefish.

One day was outstanding with a 61 lb. cod taken on a Sekora tube rig. The weather being so warm the captain was already wearing his summer shorts. Where else but Montauk?

Unlike last fall, when we had a hot run of cod in cold December, this year's fall cod amounted to zip. Some cod were taken while blackfishing but no solid showings. Will we ever again see a run of all cod in Montauk's rips?

Before getting into the flounder action, what about pollack? Well, this captain hardly caught enough to make a good meal. Even the trollers who have been responsible for large catches of big pollack in the past few seasons found little consistency this year. Since I do not troll and don't go out of my way to try and catch pollack (I prefer codfish), this information

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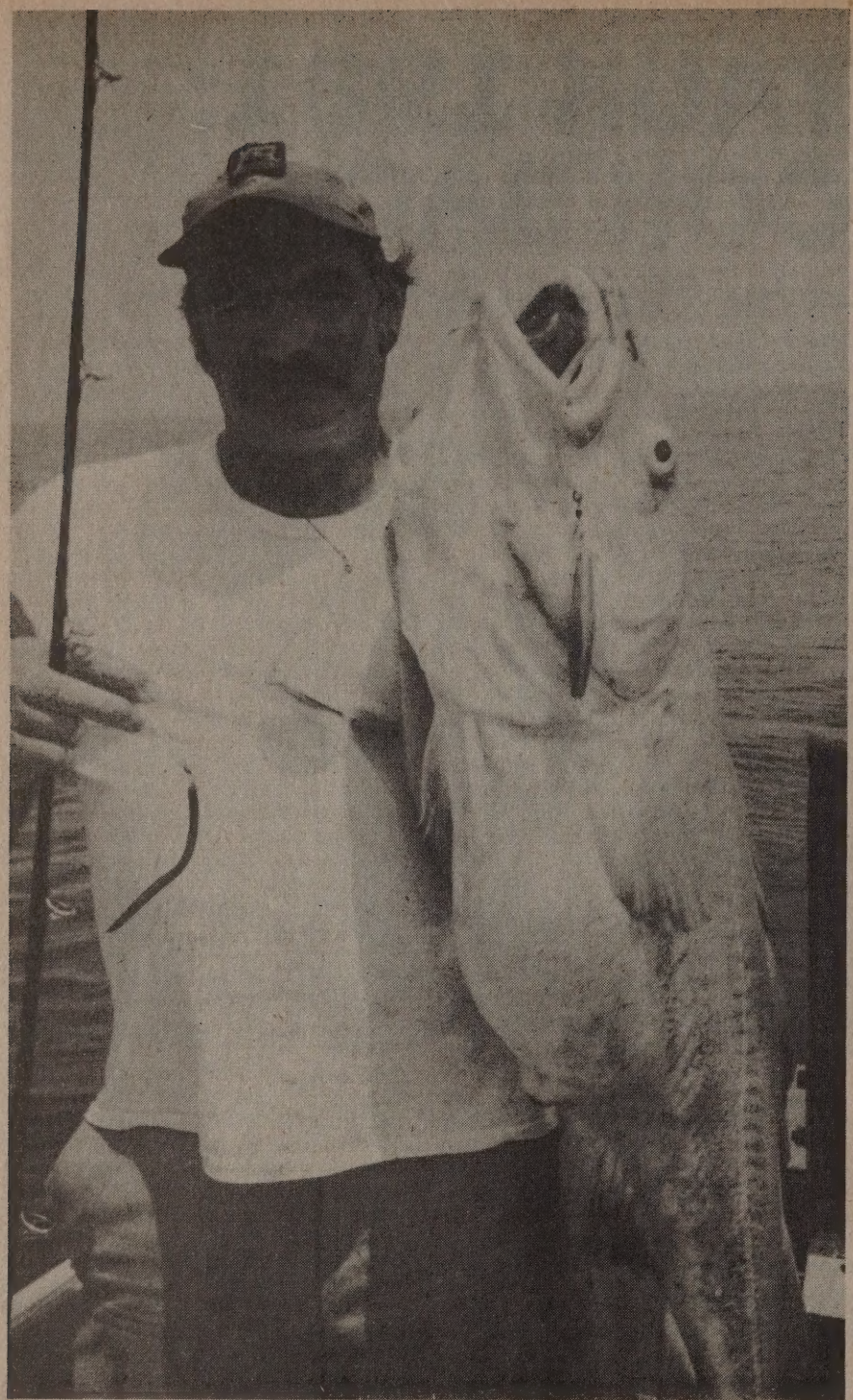

Mid-June blessed us with one week of super codfishing. Jig and tube combos took many fish in the 30 to 60 lb. range.

comes by way of personal observations from dock landings and marine radio chatter.

Like all seasons, there were happy surprises and disappointing letdowns. Flounder were of the former. First flounder trip on the "Vivienne" took place on April 4th. A very strong west wind scratched a cod trip. We went back to Promised Land. A miserable 12 fish ended up in the bucket. The following day the west wind continued. Once again Promised Land. This time we took 30 flounder. Nothing like experience. On April 9th, the first impressive catch of flounder was made. We began the morning by trying for codfish at Cartwright (because of an increasing west wind and a heavy swell, Block Island was out). After a quick 9 cod at anchor, a large sea broke over the corner of the transom filling the cockpit with six inches of water and also destroying my Loran set. This, plus a case of mal-de-mer for two out of three anglers, prompted us to pull anchor and head once again for Promised Land. Two hours later, the west wind was blowing so hard, into a flood tide, that I had to slow up the boat because of choppy seas while going past Napeague Harbor. The anchor went down by the bunker factory. In less than 3 hours we pulled 36 big flounders. Four fish went over 3 lbs.

Keep in mind that most of my flounder trips were made under adverse conditions. It seems everyone wants codfish. Montauk flounders arrive late and most people have had a few flounder trips under their belt and hope to do battle with large fish such as cod. What will usually turn a frown into a smile is the size of the flounder to be had. The three dozen flounders previously mentioned made a full bushel.

The Hooter Buoy, birthplace of the snowshoe flounder in the mid-50s, generated some flounder excitement this year. Unfortunately, it was more excitement than flounder. Still it was an improvement over years past and a positive hope for the coming season. On May 9, my party managed 22 flounder during the slack water period at the Hooter. This is one of the problems of snowshoe floundering at the Hooter. It all happens at slack water intervals.

On May 9, more poor weather forced us to flounder fish. This day saw the Vivienne off Gardiner's Island and the beginning of a truly reliable run of flounder. Ninety flounder of mixed sizes was the final count. My next three trips showed a total of 194 flounder to 4 lbs. and 36 blacks up to 5 lbs.

My first charge of flounder closer to home took place at Shagwong on May 22. After 17 cod at Southwest Ledge, the slack water at Shagwong yielded 50 flounder in a few hours. That was the start of really good catches that could be made only minutes from the dock. One problem occurs with this late flounder action: a conflict of interest. The striped bass arrive the end of May. With a little luck, both species can be fished the same day. The late notable flounder score was made on June 12, with 52 flounder, the largest over 3 lbs.

This was the best flounder season in the past 4 or 5 years. I believe if I fished flounder exclusively, not merely during poor weather, the catch ratio would not have been good, but great. I look forward to a good season in 1982 for these tasty little scrappers.

The first of 12 fluke to see the fish box this year came July 15th. On a morning trip, after 30 big blues at outer Cartwright, and a desperate inshore search for weakfish, we settled for a few fluke before home. All small fluke. And so was the trend for the season: small fluke. On the afternoon of July 31st, a good catch of fluke was made. One large bass was taken while searching for weaks and blues before giving in to an earlier hot tip on the CB. On the last 2 hours of the ebb, 4 anglers racked up 60 fluke of a decent size. Maybe 4 lbs. the largest. The following afternoon showed 40 more; same spot. A week later, after an unsuccessful attempt for sea bass and porgies on a morning trip, the same spot bailed me out with 48 fluke on the same tide. Fast and furious. Two anglers never changed

their porgy rigs and caught a number of double-header fluke. That about sums up my fluke report. I really didn't chase the fluke much at all for a personal accurate account. My impression was that of a poor season with a majority of small fish and very little of the slammers. The usual slam-bang action found at the end of the fluke season never occurred. Not to my knowledge anyway. It died with a whimper.

one disappointment that was to be expected was the sea bass. Believed to be the best tasting fish in our waters, the sea bass made a good return showing about seven years ago and have never rallied since. This season was perhaps the worst. In most seasons, I would rack up 6 to 12 sea bass a day when diamond jig fishing the Point area. Not so nowadays. This does not mean that there are no more sea bass, just not enough for a charter boat to chase. Charter boats must produce. Something has to "bend the rod." Private boatmen with gourmet palates can still scratch up some sea bass. On September 27th, poor weather made me try an old spot nearby for sea bass. Besides some earlier attempts at chasing small blues with casting sticks, 2 anglers filled a milk box with 30 sea bass, about a 1 lb. average. No glowing combat stories of good sea bass fishing reached my ears all season. I made one bona fide sea bass trip the morning of August 7th. Several anchoring attempts on some of Montauk's better known south side sea bass spots produced a big fat zero. Never again during the season did I attempt such folly. I do not like to be burned twice.

This was the first season that I hardly fished porgies. As I have stated in the past, people have a built-in disgust for porgies. So why bother. They require a great deal more work and expense on my part and no matter how good the catch, it remains non-impressive to most anglers. From the viewpoint of the casual fisherman, porgies were always there to be taken. Then again, the commercial porgy jerker found a slower year than those past. My friend Mike Kayel, who owns and operates the Inlet Marina and does mot of the commercial boxing of hook and line porgies at Montauk, said it was a "slow season." Keep in mind that every season tends to be compared with the last, a slow season might only be a letdown from a previous year of exceptional fishing. Sure 'nuff, the guy out to fill up his bucket with porgies had no trouble. Porgies have always been, and I believe always will be, a Montauk staple. Just like bread and butter.

One more staple not to be overlooked is the blackfish. This tough little guy is just as much at home surrounded by barnacle covered obstructions as brother rabbit is in the briar patch. And Montauk has a large selection of hard rocky bottoms to seek out the blackfish. (A forthcoming article on Montauk blackfish will go into detail.)

On the "Vivienne," blackfish don't receive any attention until after the bass run in the late fall. My first shot at the blacks came on October, Friday 13th. Strong northeast winds made us give up what was to be my last attempt at catching bass. We retreated westward, down to the beach and into the lee. We had 80 blacks by noon and topped that with a milk box of nice size flounder on the way home. From then until December 1st, I managed a few more charters for the blacks. As in the early spring, the weather was so bad trips were cancelled and most of those fished were in rough sea conditions. Averages per trip went around 40 blacks and 6 cod. Poor weather drove us in early on most of these late fall trips cutting down on the catch ratio. On every trip, "we left them biting."

So ends Part One of 1981 at Montauk. As you can see, this half covered the bottom species. Part Two deals with the heavy hitters of the inshore fishery: the bluefish, weakfish and striped bass. The second half has its pleasant surprises as well as its disappointments. Along with facts and figures including a weakfish graph. Don't miss it.

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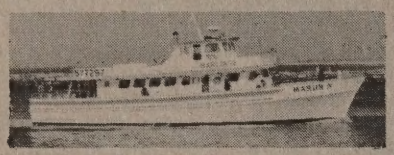

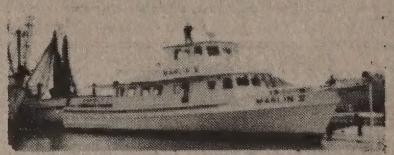

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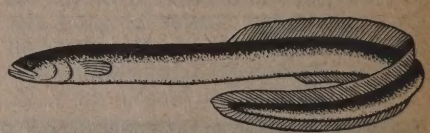

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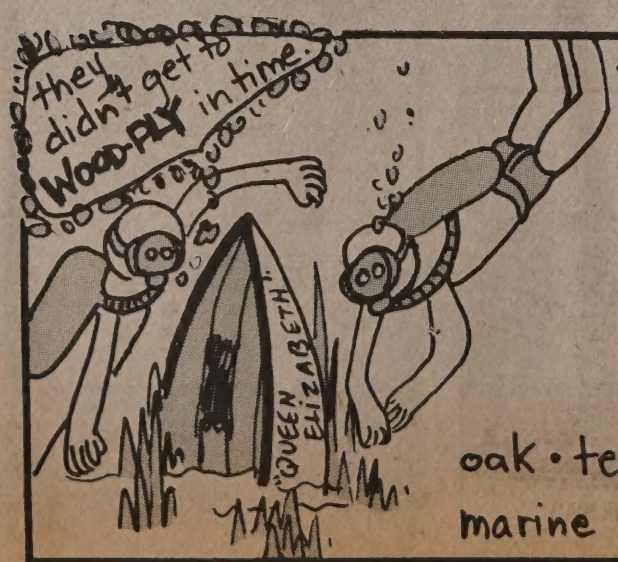

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Fishing Reports

by Stu Miller

MONTAUK

The **Marlin IV** reports a steady week and weekend of decent codfishing working areas south of the Point. Fish are running from 3-10 lbs. and catches are averaging five per man this week. The daily high hook has been from 15-20 cod a man.

CAPTREE

Captain Speedy Hubert of the **Speedy VI** had 28 cod on Friday for his passengers, fish running from 10-12 lbs. with the boat working open bottom. The skipper ran into some real steakers on Sunday's trip with 8 cod running from 25-35 lbs. also on open bottom.

FREEPORT

Captain Richie Kessinger on the **Starstream II** said that except for a couple of light days during the week, fishing had to be classified as good on the cod as evidenced by a catch by E. Welsh of Ozone Park with a 41 lber. Larry McCall bagged a 31 lber. while B. Blake of Yonkers scored with a 39 lb. cod. Jay Briggs of Connecticut managed a 30 lb. cod. The skipper says that a few really big fish were hung which broke lines all through the week. Unfortunately, the anglers had their drags snugged up too

Bradley Philips with a 50 lb. hake and Andy Simirtis with a 62 lb. cod. Both anglers scored on an offshore wreck while fishing aboard the Freeport open boat "Starstream II."

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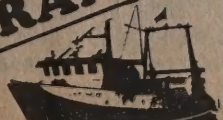

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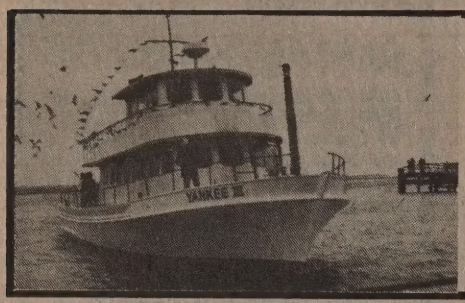

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Tom Zeme, West Islip, used a live blackfish in Fire Island Inlet to take this 34 lb. striper last fall. Subscriber photo.

tightly. You've got to keep a moderate drag because there are definitely some big cows around. Rich says that with moderate weather and good fishing conditions, catches should remain good to very good. This was all on clam bait on open bottom.

Captain Billy Lindroth on the **Capt. Al** reports that his fares caught good numbers of cod this past week and weekend, but the fish were somewhat smaller this week than the week before. The biggest this week hit 20 lbs. on the scale. On Thursday's trip, Whitestone angler Frank Rama was high hook with 9 cod to 15 lbs. Monday's trip saw 50 cod taken, on the small side. On Friday, Tommy DiMateo of Brooklyn was high hook with 5 cod. Saturday's trip saw Pete Wenkus, a regular on the boat, bag up with 4 cod to 20 lbs.

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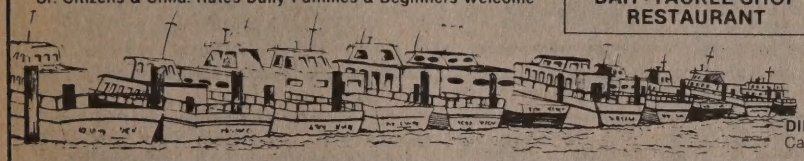

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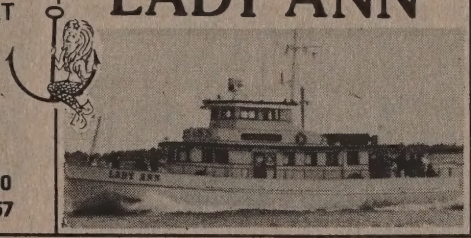

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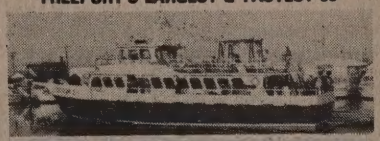

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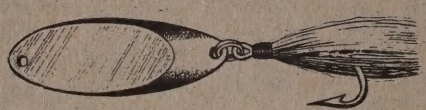

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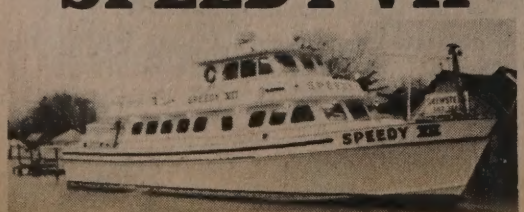

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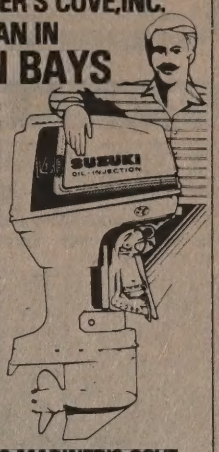

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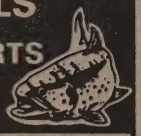

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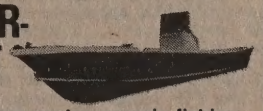

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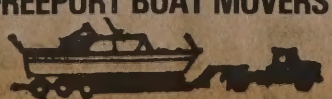

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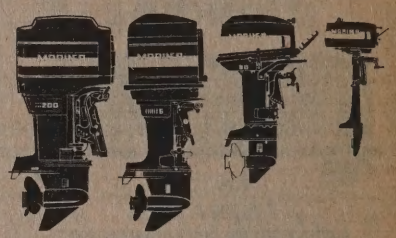

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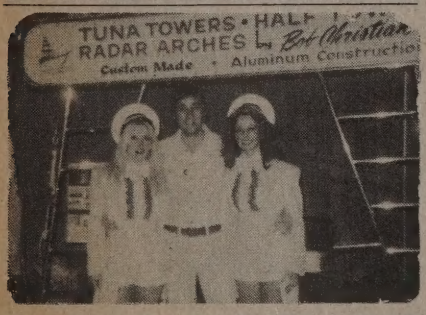

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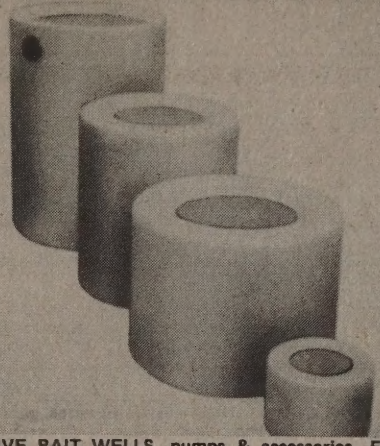

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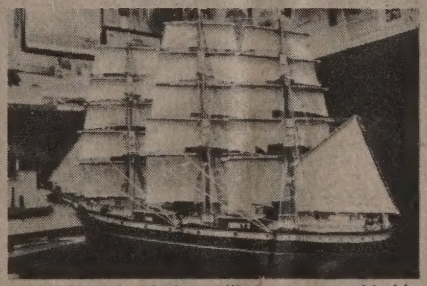

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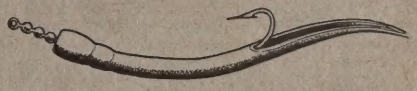

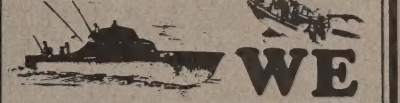

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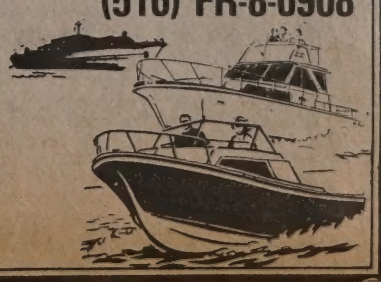

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